Mac FORMAT ISSUE 204 February 2009

35 Essential Mac fixes! ● iTunes vs Amazon: which is best for MP3s? ● Mouse and keyboard Group Test ● Snow Leopard OS X 10.6 revealed ● Calibrate your Mac monitor

Printed in the UK

Mac FORMAT

All your Apple needs

ISSUE 204 February 2009

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Add new features to iTunes
- Master keyboard shortcuts
- Calibrate your Mac monitor

AND MUCH MORE!

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

Get more from your Mac today!

Have fun with photos

Make iPhoto work the way you do

Get serious with movies

Master iMovie effects & transitions

New reviews this issue

- Parallels Desktop for Mac 4
- MacSpeech Dictate
- Griffin AirCurve

Mac FORMAT
This Week

35 Essential Mac Fixes

Proven ways to solve your Mac problems!

GROUP TEST

Six Mac mice

We see how they run...

DIGITAL MUSIC

Amazon vs iTunes

MP3 stores go head to head

INVESTIGATED

Snow Leopard

OS X 10.6 details revealed

DISC INSIDE!

- ThinkFree Office 3.5: the full office suite!
- FileMaker Bento training

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Welcome

Just as we were putting this issue of *MacFormat* to bed, Amazon started to sell DRM-free MP3s on its UK store, undercutting Apple's iTunes Store and selling popular albums for as little as £3. The whole digital music market has changed overnight and it's left Apple looking restricted and not so competitive by comparison. If you haven't ventured further afield for your digital music purchases than Apple's iTunes Store, then it's the perfect time to start. See our feature on page 60 for the lowdown on iTunes Store alternatives.

> "The whole digital music market has changed and left Apple looking restricted"

Of course, there's much more to Apple than just digital music. The latest MacBook TV adverts stress Apple's newfound green credentials, but how green is Apple really? Find out what we discovered in our feature, starting on page 22.

With OS X, the next big thing is going to be OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard. The new system is an interesting departure for Apple, because instead of packing in more features, it's concentrating on making OS X leaner and meaner. But with no new 'must have' features on offer will mac users really want to upgrade? Find out on page 70.

Of course, by the time you read this Steve Jobs will have announced the latest must-have Apple product at his keynote in San Francisco, and you'll already be giving your credit card a nervous sideways glance. Don't worry, I'll be doing exactly the same thing, too. Worse still, I'll actually be getting to play with it as I soak up the atmosphere at the biggest Mac show on the planet. So feel sorry for me, dear reader – my bank balance is about to get another healthy dent knocked into it. Look out for my full report from Macworld Expo in San Francisco in next month's issue, on sale 4 February.

email: gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk

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All your Apple needs

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How green is Apple?

What happens to old Macs?

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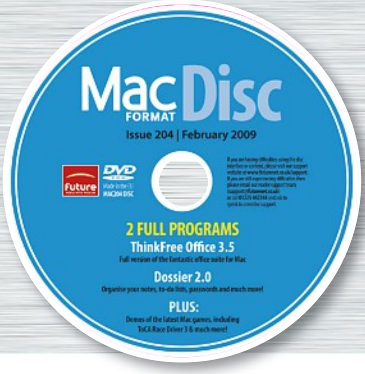
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Issue 204 | February 2009
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2 FULL PROGRAMS
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Demos of the latest Mac games, including ToCA Race Driver 3 & much more!

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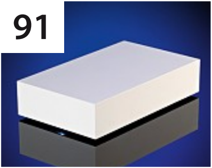

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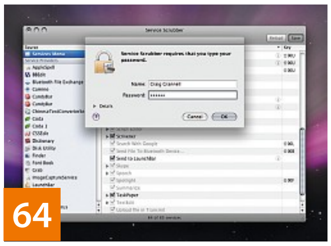

Create new menu shortcuts

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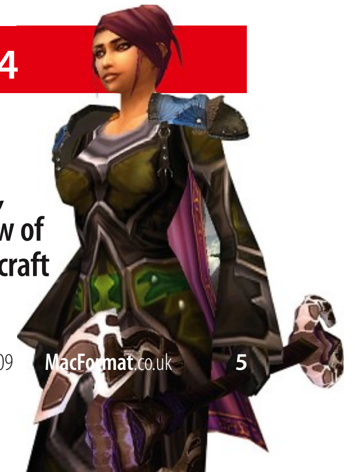


Start up

MacFormat brings you all the best
of this month's Apple chat

Rare Snow Leopard sighting

Apple boffin hints OS X 10.6 may ship sooner than thought

Development of Apple's next iteration of Mac OS X, Snow Leopard, appears to be on track, with rumours it may now ship during the first quarter of 2009, months before its anticipated release.

Announced in June 2008, Apple's original plans said Mac OS X 10.6 would ship in about a year, but a slide allegedly presented at an industry event by Jordan Hubbard, Apple's director of engineering for Unix technologies, sparked speculation we may see the software ship sooner than expected. As observed by veteran Apple rumour website, MacRumors, the slide shows Snow Leopard set to ship in the first quarter of 2009, three months ahead of schedule.

Hubbard was at the event to talk about the evolution of Mac OS X from its Unix roots on large servers and embedded platforms to its switch to the desktop, and the arrival of OS X. "Unix won the server, so next the desktop," one slide reveals.

But Apple isn't ready to confirm Snow Leopard's release schedule. Declining to validate the substance of the slide, the company would only point to its original OS X 10.6 announcement, which described it as scheduled to ship in "about a year".

The importance of the new OS has been relatively understated. What we do know is it's being developed with a focus on performance, rather than with the aim of introducing many new features. Snow Leopard is designed to tighten up the code, improve existing features and to add support for new technologies – including an innovative new method to harness the power of the Mac's graphics processor for

blickwinkel / Alamy

Snow Leopard OS X hasn't proved to be as elusive as its mountain dwelling namesake.

Turn to p70 for more!

> "The slide shows Snow Leopard set to ship in the first quarter of 2009, three months ahead of schedule"

SNIPPETS

MMS for iPhone
Swedish developer Mobilspine is offering an MMS messaging solution for iPhone, but only to mobile phone networks that wish to enable the much requested feature. Networks must activate the software on the server side and users then need to employ an iPhone application to send messages. As *MacFormat* goes to press only one Swedish carrier, Telia Sonera has said it will offer this.

THE BEATLES | Still can't work it out

Image courtesy of EMI

What seems the most enduring on/off digital music relationship continues, with Paul McCartney telling Billboard that while the surviving members of the band would like to offer their music through *iTunes*, negotiations aren't going well.

"We'd like to do it," McCartney said during an event to promote his third album release as The Fireman, produced with Youth. "We are very for it, we've been pushing it," he said. "But there are a couple of sticking points, I understand. So the last word I got back was that it had stalled, the whole process… They [EMI] want something we're not prepared to give them. It's between EMI and The Beatles. What else is new?"

One of the most downloaded artists through file-sharing networks, former Beatle McCartney also confessed he "doesn't mind" downloading. "We've come through vinyl, tapes and CDs – it's all the same, except people don't pay for it [now]. I don't mind. It works out." ●

non-graphics computing operations, OpenCL (Open Computing Language).

Apple, Intel, NVIDIA alongside many games, device and other heavyweight firms are working with the Khronos Group to establish OpenCL as an open standard. Since Apple contributed an early draft of it to Khronos, development is progressing fast, with November seeing news that a first version of OpenCL had been agreed. This quick turnaround adds further weight to speculation of an early release for Snow Leopard.

MacObserver reports Khronos "found it had to accelerate its work because Apple wants to ship Mac OS X 10.6, or Snow Leopard, early next year" – a target Apple would be unable to meet if the OpenCL specification hadn't been agreed.

The implementation also sees support from the OpenGL working group managed by Khronos. This second group is working to "define full interoperability between the two open standards," Khronos has said.

Working together, OpenCL and OpenGL will offer a powerful open standards-based visual computing platform with OpenCL's general purpose compute capabilities combined with the full power of OpenGL.

While a draft of the standard has been released several hurdles remain – not least the need for those involved in the development to comb through what's there in order to ensure it doesn't break any intellectual property or trademark rules. This process generally takes 30 days or more – much more, in some cases. Until legal review is complete the full spec can't be published, but Khronos did let slip that the first applications to exploit OpenCL will be graphics-intensive products including video games and multimedia apps.

Supercomputer in hand

While Snow Leopard is the next-gen Mac OS, OpenCL may in future benefit other devices from multiple manufacturers. As iPhone spearheads Apple's move into mobile device development it's worth pondering an earlier statement by Neil Trevett, President of the Khronos Group, who said, "Significantly, this initiative is aimed at both desktop and embedded devices – the day when you'll be able to hold a supercomputer in the palm of your hand is perhaps not so far away."

Apple has already confirmed Snow Leopard will "dramatically reduce" the amount of drive space required to install Mac OS X. This suggests Apple has the resources for future mobile device development beyond iPhone – a netbook perhaps? Read more on Snow Leopard in our feature on page 70. ●

Apple in numbers

200,000

iPhone sales in Japan in first two months.

DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

"I can edit favourites by hitting the edit button in the top corner… Tony [Fadell's] changed his number… so I'm going to get rid of that… 'boom'."

Apple CEO bumps iPod father Fadell from his favourites.

STEVE WOZNIAK www.woz.org

"I don't see him very often. I could see him more. I like him. I see him at Apple events – we're not close, we're friends, we've never been anything other than friends. Find one person who's seen us fighting…"

Apple co-founder talks about Steve Jobs.

DAVE MARK http://tinyurl.com/65az2u

Beginning
iPhone Development
Exploring the iPhone SDK

"I think we've barely scratched the surface of what can be built with the iPhone SDK. I'm constantly amazed at the ideas that emerge from the developer community."

iPhone development handbook author bigs up the iPhone.

JOHN GRUBER http://daringfireball.net

"Apple has more to gain by shutting down the OSx86 Project – or at least shutting down its major contributors – than by shutting down Psystar."

Notable Mac blogger thinks Apple are aiming at the wrong target.

PETE JENNER www.musicweek.com

"*iTunes* has had the disastrous effect on the record industry of debundling the album."

One-time Floyd manager pines for the old days.

PADMANAND WARRIER www.microsoft.com

"A premium experience as defined by Walt = Apple. This is why we need to address [the column]."

Microsoft developer reacts to a Walt Mossberg pro-Mac op-ed in October 05.

PAUL SMERNICKI www.polydor.co.uk

"We gave away more than 30,000 of them in the first week. The next step is to figure out what it's added to the campaign, but the initial download numbers would suggest that it's added quite a lot."

Polydor digital chief pleased with Snow Patrol iPhone app.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.com

Five steps towards a better me

Welcome, then, to 2009. How has it been for you so far?

CHRIS' COLUMN

I'm terrible at keeping new year's resolutions, so maybe by committing them to print in a national magazine, you'll help me stick to them. Email christopher.phin@futurenet.com if you spot me lapsing.

1. I will not describe any computer hardware as 'sexy'. To do so, as I have observed before, is to tell the reader more about the psyche of the reviewer than about the product being reviewed.

2. I will brave the terrifying multi-tentacled beast that lurks in my bottom drawer and discard those computer cables that are obsolete or redundant. After all, nobody needs 14 or more power leads, or enough USB cables to string up Michael Winner.

3. I will be nice to colleagues from other magazines when they wander across to *MacFormat* and demand (a) free technical support just as we're attempting to send the magazine to press and/or (b) free hardware and software. Hitherto, I've been brusque to the point of rudeness, which I realise makes me A Bad Person. I can only hope that they're all making similar "I must not bug *MacFormat* on press week" pledges.

> "If Apple brings out a bad product, I'll tell you it's bad. You wouldn't believe the number of people who think MacFormat is Apple"

4. I will tidy the crap off my desk regularly. Actually, scratch that; I will attempt not to cover my desk in crap in the first place. You'd be amazed at the number of cables, kits, installer disks, manuals, spoons and mouldering coffee cups that accrete around me without apparent input on my part.

Most importantly, however:

5. If Apple brings out a bad product, I'll tell you it's bad. You wouldn't believe the number of people who think *MacFormat* either is Apple, or is somehow in the pay of Apple. This isn't true; *MacFormat* is totally independent of Apple and we're only too happy to put the boot in if our favourite fruit company produces something disappointing. In fact, this new year's resolution isn't new – *MacFormat* has always been critical of Apple – but I want to restate it here to remind you of our editorial integrity. ●

Deputy Editor Chris doesn't need to make a new year's resolution to join a gym or lose weight as he finds his daily Apple diet is enough to keep him trim.

The iPhone has overtaken the Palm for corporate use.

Operator
General
Mail (5)
Barcelona, 14°C
Options
BlackBerry
12:21 PM
Thursday, May 22
(3) Messages
Messages
SMS
Contacts
Browser
VZ Naviga...
Media
O2-UK
14:23
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
NetNewsWire
Facebook
Twinkle
Pennies
Spore
Last.fm
Units
Settings
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

iPHONE NEWS

iPhone bites into business

Survey shows iPhone more popular than Palm among US firms

More iPhone news from ChangeWave, which reveals Apple's iPhone is more popular than Palm among US corporate customers, with 14% of companies surveyed likely to buy the smartphone in future. It's the latest in a long list of successes for the iPhone, which has already been declared the most reliable smartphone (SquareTrade) and the most satisfying handset to use (JD Power & Associates).

"In a further confirmation that the 3G iPhone is having a positive impact on Apple's corporate business, nearly one-in-five respondents (18%) report the release of the 3G version has made their company 'More likely' to purchase Apple products in the future," ChangeWave said in its November report.

Palm's share slid four points, leaving it with just 11% of the enterprise market, while current leading handset provider Research In Motion (RIM) saw anticipated future sales cede one point of market share to iPhone. An August ChangeWave survey pegged iPhone with 17% of future planned US corporate smartphone purchases. iPhone sales reached 6,892,000 in Apple's last financial quarter, compared to 1,119,000 one year ago while RIM shifted 6.1 million BlackBerrys in the same period.

Apple's good news is tempered by continued alarm at the state of the global economy, with 45% of companies looking to decrease or delay technology spending in early 2009, a second ChangeWave survey revealed.

These claims are borne out by a recent Gartner survey covering Q3 2008, which revealed iPhone/Mac OS X (12.9%) now eclipses Windows Mobile (11.1%) in smartphone market share. This survey showed Nokia (42.4%) in first, RIM (15.9%) and Apple (12.9%) in global smartphone market share. Between Q3 2007 to Q3 2008 Apple's share grew an astonishing 327.5%.

However, while Apple remains on many shopping lists at this point, ChangeWave's senior researcher Paul Carton warned of tough times ahead. "An accelerating collapse in US business spending has reached historic proportions," he said. ●

Apple in numbers

7.56%

Safari's Canadian market share, according to OneStat.

NEW BUSINESS

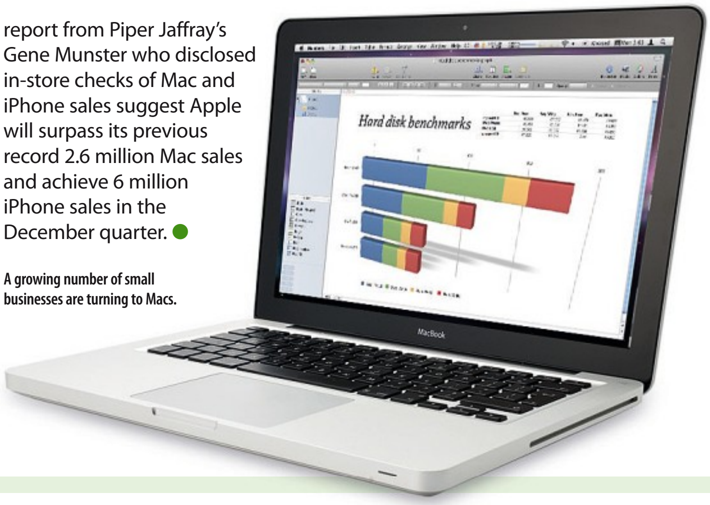
Is business ready for the Mac?

Mac switching is on the rise among small business customers

Out of the blue, Apple is attracting record levels of small business customers, claims Needham & Co analyst Charles Wolf.

Apple moved from selling just 61,000 Macs to small businesses in spring 2008 to 188,000 in the September quarter, he said, raising its slice of the small business market from 1.9 to 5.6%.

"After years when the Mac's share of this market barely budged, the increase was so abrupt that there are no obvious explanations for it," Wolf wrote, speculating that a combination including superior software and retail stores helped the achievement. Meanwhile, AppleInsider cites a second report from Piper Jaffray's Gene Munster who disclosed in-store checks of Mac and iPhone sales suggest Apple will surpass its previous record 2.6 million Mac sales and achieve 6 million iPhone sales in the December quarter. ●



A growing number of small businesses are turning to Macs.

MACBOOK FAULTS

Damage control: laptop issues

Apple investigates annoying glitches in latest laptops

Apple's moving to address sundry hassles faced by customers buying its newly released laptops, with complaints including trackpad and graphics problems.

Customers who've bought MacBooks and MacBook Pros noted a fault in which clicks on these laptops' new glass trackpads were not being recognised. While users heard the click they saw no activity on-screen. To rectify the problem, Apple introduced *MacBook, MacBook Pro Trackpad Firmware Update 1.0.*

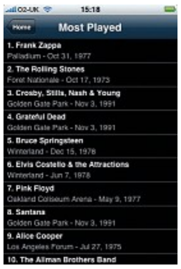
There's been no repair yet for the graphics problem, which causes the screen to go black after a few minutes of gaming and locks up the system and audio. This leaves users with no option but to restart their machines, and, in turn, lose all unsaved files. This issue is affecting numerous titles including *Call of Duty 4* and *World of Warcraft*, reports claim.

The company has told affected customers the matter is being investigated, but isn't prepared to issue replacement machines until it's figured out if it's software or hardware that's to blame. A related fault seen by MacBook and MacBook Pro owners is of 'wave-like video distortions' while scrolling in browsers of viewing HD content.

It's also been confirmed that users playing *iTunes* purchases are unable to play their media on large screen TVs or projectors attached to their portables unless the projecting device is compatible with HDCP, meaning Apple isn't implementing rights management at a system level. ●

SNIPPETS

Don't miss…
Wolfgang's Vault (www.wolfgangsvault.com) offers a rich archive of rare live performance recordings, including music from Throwing Muses/Kristin Hersh, Pink Floyd and the MC5. An app delivering free streaming access is available now for the iPhone and iPod touch.



1. Frank Zappa
Palladium - Oct 31, 1977
2. The Rolling Stones
Forest Nationale - Oct 17, 1973
3. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
Golden Gate Park - Nov 3, 1991
4. Grateful Dead
Golden Gate Park - Nov 3, 1991
5. Bruce Springsteen
Winterland - Dec 15, 1978
6. Elvis Costello & the Attractions
Winterland - Jun 7, 1978
7. Pink Floyd
Oakland Coliseum Arena - May 9, 1977
8. Santana
Golden Gate Park - Nov 3, 1991
9. Alice Cooper
Los Angeles Forum - Jul 27, 1975
10. The Allman Brothers Band

Boxee clever
A recent Apple TV update broke support for the popular *Boxee* multimedia software. However, developers have now addressed the problem meaning you can enjoy even more options, including built-in access to a slew of features not available as standard with the Apple set-top box. www.boxee.tv.

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For hi-tech retailers, it's sink or swim

Want to fend off online retail rivals? Here's some friendly advice

ACROSS THE POND...

It's tough times for retailers these days. In the US, CompUSA is close to death as is Circuit City. In the UK, Dixons and PC World have tightened their belts, closed stores and trimmed staff and stock. But it's more than competition from the internet and a bad economy that's killing retailers. It's their lack of dealing straight with customers. So how can they survive and consumers reap the benefits? Here's some advice…

Less pressure, more service: I'm sick of walking into a retailer and being pressured from the minute they lay eyes on me. Focus on customer service and less on seeing me as your monthly commission.

Advertise only what you stock: I hate a retailer advertising a product that they don't actually stock or not displaying the product in-store for me to be able to see and touch. I might as well buy it from an online-only retailer. If any retailer does this, they'll lose my business permanently.

> "If you want me to pay more for a product versus online, I want to talk to a sales agent that knows more about the product than I do"

The price on the product is what you pay: Forget product rebates or mail-in forms to get back £10. Just tell me the price, plain and simple.

Know your products: This is my biggest pet peeve of high street retailers. Bricks-and-mortar retailers (and this includes Apple especially) if you want me to pay more for a product versus online, I want to talk to a sales agent that knows more about the product than I do. "How do these products compare?", "Will this flash card fit in my digital camera?" I don't expect them to know everything, but I do expect them to know the basics of the products they sell. Otherwise, I'll spend the time researching for hours online in the comfort of my home and buy online.

Here's the bottom line… The majority of us would rather buy hi-tech items in person and maybe even pay a little more if we're treated well. Want to survive through good times and bad, Mister Retailers? Stick to the tried-and-true rules of good customer service. It'll guarantee customers returning, and your survival. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via *iTunes* or from www.macformat.co.uk.

9:42 AM
All Calendars
Monday
Add Account...
Microsoft Exchange
mobileme
Gmail
YAHOO! MAIL
AOL
Other
1 of 50

FLASH SUPPORT

Adobe teams up with ARM

The two firms get together in an effort to improve Flash support

Adobe is working with iPhone chipmaker ARM to develop better support for *Flash* devices equipped with an ARM processor. The two firms will work with support from Broadcom, Freescale and NVIDIA to achieve this.

The outcome should be a version of *Flash* that while requiring little electrical power also fully harnesses the internal processor inside ARM products.

Should Apple be willing to permit use of *Flash* on an iPhone, the company will be looking to Adobe to properly address the problem observed by Apple CEO Steve Jobs in March last year, when he said *Flash* for mobile devices (*Flash Lite*) "is not capable of being used with the web", while the full-fledged desktop version performs too poorly on the handset to be effective. "There's this missing product in the middle," Jobs said, while insisting Apple and Adobe have a "good relationship". Time will tell if Adobe's initiative means *Flash* support for future iPhones. ●

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

With the US economy crashing around Apple's ears and with competitors flooding the market with 'me too' smartphones Apple's share price shows the kind of resilience that marks it out from the crumbling stock price of most companies. Down 50% from the high is pretty good when you look at ream after ream of performance tables for solid companies down 70-80, even 90%+.

At $91 a share Apple is worth $81 billion, which is 12 Fords and 32 GMs and only half the mighty GE and Microsoft market valuations. Apple is worth four Dells. You could buy Goldman Sach, Citigroup and Boeing for the price of Apple. Apple is even worth more than Google!

It will take years for the real good times to roll again and against this background it seems likely Apple will gain yet more ground. In an environment where even good companies can fail, great companies can be left the 'last man standing.' So if the doomsters turn out to be right only the strong will survive the next few years.

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iSRD

Win! Plustek OpticFilm 7500i SE film and slide scanner!

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Today's digital cameras are accomplished beasts, capturing shots with bags of detail and superbly accurate colour, and all for peanuts, comparatively-speaking. But while we're all now happily filling *iPhoto* with hundreds of digital snaps, most of us have shoeboxes of negatives and even slides hiding in a corner of our homes.

Luckily, it's easy to get these onto your Mac thanks to this competition with Plustek. This 7,200spi scanner comes with mounts for standard 35mm negatives and slides, and comes bundled with the pro-level *SilverFast SE 6.6 iSRD* software. Perhaps best of all, the iSRD feature can help remove dust and scratches from your negatives and slides, so even if your originals aren't in the best nick, you should still get some cracking scans from it. The high native optical resolution means you could blow a standard 35mm negative up to a meter wide and still get a decent 260dpi resolution on the enlargement.

So enter our competition using any of the methods on the right, and dust down all those old family photos; you're likely to be pleasantly surprised by some of the shots you'll find! Read more at **www.plustek.com**.

THE QUESTION

To be in with a chance of winning one of the four Plustek OpticFilm 7500i SE scanners on offer, answer the following question correctly using on of the methods outlines in the box to the right.

Which of the following is not a format for photographic, chemical film?

A) APS
B) 135
C) CompactFlash

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, you can either text PLUSTEK followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition link**.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
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- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 3 February 2009.

The wonderful world of widgets

Get them from www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard or your disc

DashboardRadio

A collection of chilled out and breakbeat radio stations that you can control from within *Dashboard*. There's low latency and some choice sounds here to help calm you down when a nasty deadline is approach fast!

HP-12C

This is a fully featured HP-12C calculator emulator which supports everything the classic device ever did, including financial, IRR, depreciation, statistics and programming mode. A great retro widget.

International Cocktail Recipes

Still reeling in the wake of the party season? Get rid of the back-to-work blues with a tasty cocktail or two from this collection of recipes. You'll find them perfect for putting a spring in your step.

3D Paradise Paintball

This little game hides in *Dashboard*, supports full-screen play between up to eight opponents over LAN and internet, and offers single-player mode, too. We're really quite impressed with this!

COURT CASE

Apple wins first battle in clone wars

Company 'not a monopoly', judge declares

Apple's case against Psystar, the high-profile manufacturer of unauthorised Mac clones continues, with a significant decision going the way of the one true Mac manufacturer.

Psystar caught international attention with news it was offering low-cost computers capable of running Mac OS X. Apple does not license its operating system to other manufacturers, so in July 2008 it filed a suit against the clone maker, alleging violations against its shrink wrap licence, trademarks, and copyright infringement. Psystar fought back with a counter-suit claiming Apple broke anti-trust laws by not allowing others to install OS X on their products. That claim's been rejected by the US court, with Judge William Alsup saying Psystar failed to meet anti-trust requirements in its case. "Psystar's allegations are internally contradictory. Psystar alleges that Mac OS is, by definition, an independent and unique market. That is, Mac OS, by definition, admits no reasonable substitutes," he said.

Also rejected were Pystar's arguments that Apple's decision not to license Mac OS X constitutes any kind of anti-competitive restraint. Psystar may still file an amended complaint.

The two companies now have until 20 August next year to try to negotiate some kind of solution, though licensing OS X to the clone makers seems an unlikely outcome. ●

Apple in numbers

18%

The increase in likelihood of US firms buying an Apple product.

EVENTS DIARY

BETT, LONDON
14-17 January
Apple traditionally takes a good spot at the key annual UK education technology event to showcase any newly revealed Apple kit.
www.bettshow.com

NAMM, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
15-18 January
A launch pad for the latest technologies and innovations for audio.
www.namm.org/thenammshow

FOCUS ON IMAGING, BIRMINGHAM, NEC
22-25 February
Europe's biggest annual imaging show, covering everything for industry pros, from the latest in image capture through to output and beyond.
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A VAMPYRE STORY

From a development staff made wholly of former LucasArts adventure gaming gurus comes this frightful and fantastical point-and-click adventure game. Combining 3D animation and 2D designs, the game follows the opera starlett, Mona, a woman kidnapped by Baron Shrowdy Von Kiefer and slowly becoming a creature of the night after coming under the vampire's spell. As she seeks to venture away from his gothic island-set castle, she'll have to learn to control her vampyric powers of turning into a bat, hypnotizing people, turning into vapor, and drinking blood from humans. Her friendly bat acquaintance, Froderick, will join her on her quest.

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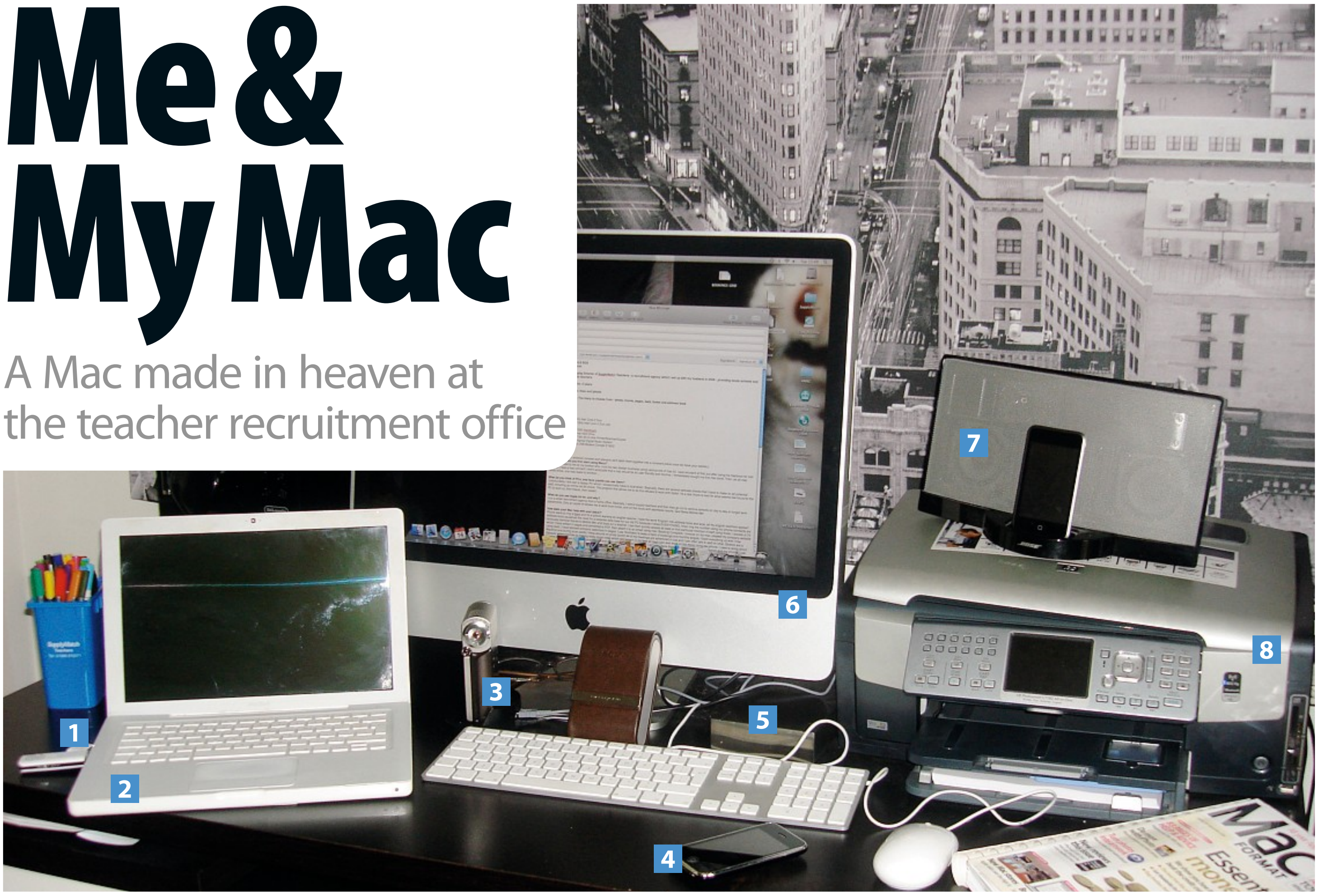

1 3 Mobile Broadband USB Modem E160G These days, these little data modems are pretty quick and not ruinously expensive.

2 Apple MacBook 2GHz Core 2 Duo We're big fans of the white MacBook, but Gail should consider the more robust new aluminium model.

3 Sony TG3 HD DV camera This compact little DV camera is a handy handbag addition, and it shoots HD video at its highest 1,080 res.

4 Apple iPhone 3G 8GB "I use my iPhone to touch base with emails on the move," Gail says, and she loves the *Address Book* sync.

5 LaCie 500GB hard disk We've said it before: you can never have enough storage. We're betting Gail will fill this pretty soon!

6 Apple iMac 24-inch 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo The iMac at the heart of Gail's setup is a bit of a monster, and the screen is huge, too.

7 Bose SoundDock While we favour Logitech's iPod speaker systems, this model from Bose can belt out a pretty tune.

8 HP C7180 All-in-One Compact MFDs like this are ideal for a small office, though if you're printing high volumes, consider laser.

Apple has always been strong in schools, and when Gail Anderson got in touch with us, she shared her story from the world of education that's perhaps a little more unusual. "I run a small recruitment agency from a home office," she says. "Basically, I recruit supply teachers and then they go out to various schools; only Apple kit allows me to work from home and on the move with seamless results. God bless MobileMe!"

Name: Gail Anderson
Occupation: MD, SupplyMatch Teachers
Been using a Mac for: Two years
Favourite hardware: Apple iPhone
Favourite software: Too many to choose from!

So how does the Mac help her do her job? Gail describes a typical day: "The phone starts to ring at 8am and it's a school wanting an English teacher. I type 'English' into *Address Book* and all my English teachers appear. *Address Book* squashed the need for a bespoke database for our old PC because it does everything. I then ring the number using my iPhone – contacts are obviously identical thanks to MobileMe – and book out a teacher. I can then quickly access all data on that particular member of staff using *Finder*. I access a CV which I have edited in *Pages* and converted to PDF, then attach it to an email using *Mail*. Booking complete!

> "I invoice on my Mac, created my company website in iWeb and have company stationary in Pages"

"I invoice on my Mac, created my company website using *iWeb*, and have tailored company stationary in *Pages*. I use *Numbers* to keep a track of bookings and monthly targets. I back everything up with *Time Machine* and during quiet spells I mess around on *Photo Booth*! All of my meetings are scheduled in *iCal*, and I can often talk to staff on *iChat*. *Stickies* are a lifesaver when it comes to making really quick notes which will remain in my face all day! I can also work on the move using my iPhone. I used to worry about leaving the office – we are a two-person team and often visit schools together – but I don't anymore thanks to my MacBook, a modem dongle and my iPhone.

"Our schools like us to be on hand for all of their needs, and ring us because we are local. Thanks to call divert and my MacBook, I have run my 'local' business from Las Vegas, Athens Georgia, Florida, New York, Valencia, Barcelona, hotel rooms in London and from a tent at T in the Park!"

Gail's clearly a savvy Mac user, and her frustration with her Windows laptop means she'll not be abandoning her Mac life anytime soon. Despite some initial scepticism when her designer brother showed her his MacBook, "after using it for half an hour, I was a Mac convert! I didn't anticipate that a Mac would be so user friendly and intuitive." We suspect she's spreading the good word! ●

Want to share your Mac setup with us? Email christopher.phin@futurenet.com

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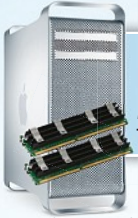

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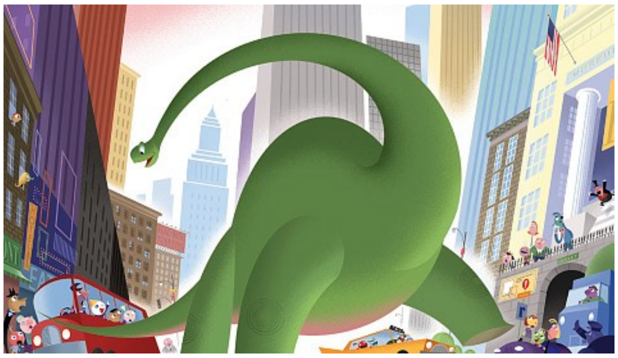
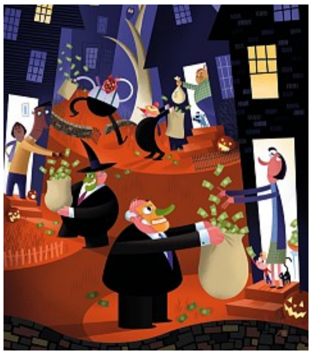
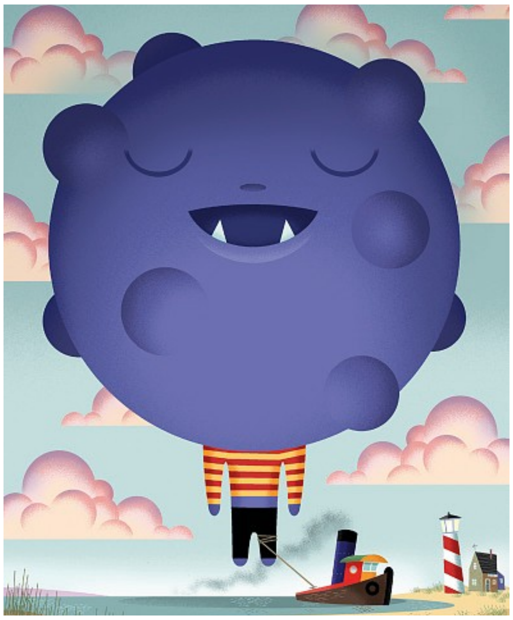
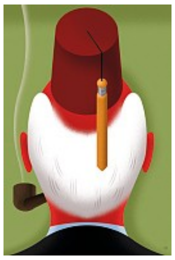
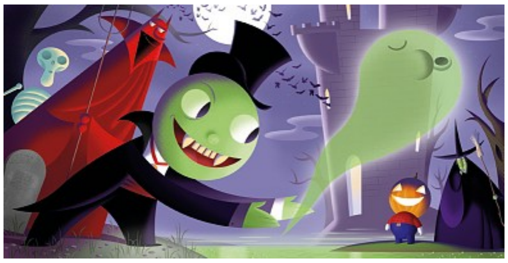






Above: Bob's response to his son telling him new Macs won't run Classic and *Photoshop 3*: "That's when I'll finally upgrade – when my dinosaur back is up against a wall!"
Right: Those in the industry are often amazed that Bob's work isn't produced using *Illustrator*, and also that he uses *Photoshop 3* – released in 1994.





Interview **Craig Grannell**

I use my Mac for... *illustration*

We talk to Bob Staake, world-famous illustrator

PROFILE

Name: Bob Staake
Location: Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA
Occupation: Illustrator and author
System(s): G5
Web: BobStaake.com

MacFormat: For what purpose do you use Macs?
Bob Staake: I'm an illustrator who's paid to sit in his little studio and pull, tug and click on a mouse to create imagery. It's a little like drawing with a bar of soap – a bar of soap plugged into a Mac. Needless to say, the Mac is an essential part of the process!

MF: What software do you use?
BS: *Adobe Photoshop 3*! Illustrators are stunned that I create my work by using 14-year-old software, but I've only recently been made aware that techies are truly irritated by this. Illustrators are stunned when they see someone creating a line drawing from a toothpick dipped in ink.

MF: Why have you stuck with *Photoshop 3*?
BS: I'm an artist and what tools I use to create my art is no real concern of mine. *Photoshop 3* does everything I need it to do, though the software was clearly not intended to create the types of illustration I'm known for. The bottom line is that I'm always busy and on deadline. Sure, I could start creating work using CS 28 or whatever they're up to, but for artists, what's more important is their point of view – not all this imbalanced interest in their tools. Nobody looks at the Mona Lisa and wonders if Leonardo da Vinci painted it with a brush made from red sable or the mane of a donkey. The work is what matters.

MF: When did you first go digital?
BS: 1995, in a modification of my pen-and-ink style which was basically a scanned drawing that I coloured in *Photoshop*. In 1998, I stumbled on a way to create work produced entirely by the mouse. Many people look at my work and assume it was created in *Illustrator*. The thing is, vector-based illustration doesn't do it for me – I seem able to integrate an organic, hand-crafted and analogue sensibility into my art on a pixel-by-pixel basis. There are times when I want an illustration to have a decidedly organic feel to it, and times when I don't. I know *Photoshop 3* is going to get me wherever I have to go – it's just up to me to decide what path to take.

MF: What are your future plans?
BS: I take every project on a day-by-day basis, and deal with the next assignment the moment it comes into my studio. I used to own eight Macs in three locations and it drove me crazy. Four years ago I was able to streamline, and I now have just one Mac in my studio – and four external hard drives backing up! ●

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"I've subscribed to your magazine – please keep up the good work."
Leon Fisher

"Windows no more! I've switched to Mac and I'm not looking back – many thanks!"
Kari Evans

USB 3 COMES TO MACBOOKS?

I notice in your Buyers' Guide article that you state that the new aluminium MacBooks don't have a FireWire port. I've been informed from an Apple insider that Apple is developing USB 3, and the USB ports on the new MacBooks are already set to take advantage of this – though, as you state, the white MacBook still supports FireWire.

So, watch this space. Yet again Apple is setting the standard for the future. A great mag, keep up the good work.

Vaughan Perks

There's no FireWire port on the 13-inch, but dormant USB 3? We doubt it.

MacFormat Replies: USB 3 (also known as SuperSpeed USB) brings significant power and speed enhancements to the USB standard, offering up to 10x the current USB speeds. While the USB 3.0 standard was officially finalised this November (the press release is dated 17 November), we'd have to say that it's highly, highly unlikely that Apple's new MacBooks (also launched in November) contain the technology in a dormant state, mainly since Apple wouldn't have had time to build it in. Only now that the standard has been finalised can manufacturers such as Apple start building USB 3 into their devices and preparing the software updates. In reality, we don't expect to see USB 3 devices hitting the market until late 2009 or early 2010.

ADOBE 9 FOR MAC?

I was surfing the net to find an answer to a printer problem and decided – wrongly – to acquire an Adobe upgrade, which was advertised as free on an email from internet.clientservice@gmail.com. After giving them my card details I was charged $48.38 for three years of PDF support. I tried to send them an email to find out what this involved but got a failure notice. I then tried a pdf@supporthelp.com address but was only sent the download information, which I had already got on the original email.

I'm not a sophisticated computer user and am retired so what have I got myself into? As I write I have received an antivirus support email from internet.

★STAR LETTER | I LOVE IT BUT…

When deserved, do you think you could be a bit more critical in your reviews of Apple products? Wonderfully desirable kit I know, but it's always behind the market in value with regards to memory and hard/flash drive capacities, with any increase having a disproportionate rise in cost. For example, the iPod touch 8GB is £169, the 16GB is £219, which is a £50 hike for 8GB of memory! And as for compatibility with plug and play external devices, how many times have you found some desirable kit in a shop and scrambled over the small print for the 'Mac OS X compatible' caveat?

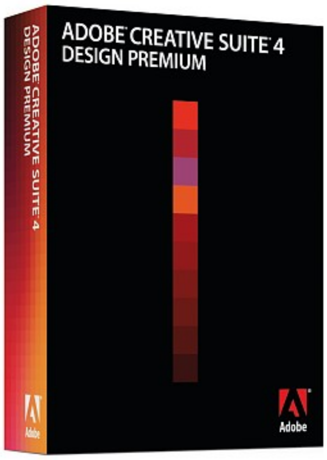
Apple's prepared to dominate the world with the *iTunes* download service, but in hardware where's the sub £500 netbook? The Air at £1,300 is a tad overpriced and under connected! The software has few rivals but the stripping of previous functions in *iMovie '08* was a little frustrating. I have two MacBooks, a Mac mini and several iPods and a sad Windows PC or two, so I know what's what! Blinkered Apple lovers are more of a hindrance than a help. Apple, after all, is just another corporate money maker.

Russell Miller

Costly on specs alone, but the Air's user experience is second to none.

MacFormat replies: Boy, you seem to have a lot of Apple-related issues you need to get off your chest in one go, Russell! Apple certainly does charge a premium for its products, and we'd like a cheaper Mac as much as anybody else, but that's also reflective in their quality. In short, you get what you pay for. You can look at the MacBook Air as a massively overpriced, under-connected netbook, or you can look at the end user experience and realise that it's the most elegant and portable way to work with a Mac so far. With Apple's market share and Mac sales on the rise it seems that people are voting with their wallets and Apple's strategy is right on target. You'll find we are far from blinkered and do criticise Apple when it's deserved. The prices it charges for adding extra RAM to Macs has long been a bugbear of ours, for instance.

Many websites offer to sell Adobe software, but make sure you are buying from a reputable dealer.



clientservice@gmail.com. Do you know who they are? Also, if the emails are bogus, how can I stop receiving them?
Myrtle Watt

MacFormat Replies: These 'supporthelp.net' or 'supporthelp.com' email addresses don't sound like legitimate businesses to us. We would also never pay money to a company that uses Gmail addresses, since these are free and disposable. A reputable dealer will have a proper website address and a proper email contacts page.

Before buying from a company you've never heard of it's a good idea to run its name through Google to see if anything pops up that would alert you to its legitimacy. Also see if other *MacFormat* readers on our forum have bought from them before. You'll find our forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**. It can be a valuable aid for instant feedback.

Since you mention PDFs I'm guessing you're talking about Adobe *Acrobat Reader*, which is Adobe's program for displaying PDF files. The app has always been a free download and is available from **www.adobe.com/downloads**.

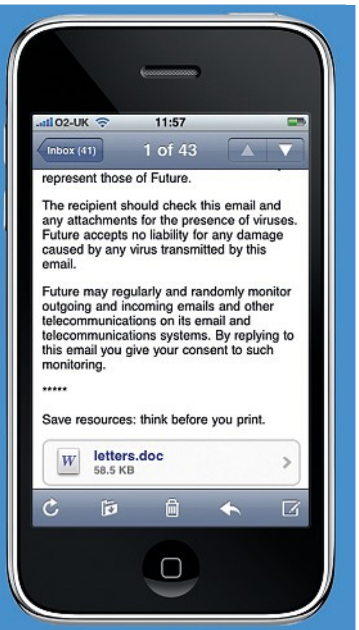
Regarding your second question, there's little you can do to stop bogus emails being sent to you – but you can do a few things to prevent them from appearing in your inbox. For example, you can label them as 'Junk' to help your spam filter. Apple *Mail* has a built-in spam filter – just click the **Junk** button with the message highlighted, or choose Message > Mark > As junk Mail. *Mail* starts off in a 'training mode' where mail you've identified as junk stays in your Inbox, but over time *Mail* will identify junk mail more accurately. Then, in *Mail*'s *Preferences* you can tell it to put all junk mail into a separate folder so you won't ever have to see it again. There are also third-party solutions that provide an even more secure spam filter, such as *SpamSieve* from **http://c-command.com/spamsieve**.

iPHONE WOES

I decided to move from my Sony Ericsson P990i, on which I kept a lot of my treatment protocols (without problem) and bought an iPhone for both my wife and myself. However, its inability to cut and paste, forward text messages, extract phone details and more has proved disappointing, while its inability to read *Word*, *Excel* and related files is proving to be a big problem. The iPhone is, to our minds, a glorified iPod.
Joe Dawson

MacFormat Replies: You're right about the lack of cut and paste ability, forwarding text messages (and also picture messages, which is the usual complaint) but we're hoping these features will be added in a future firmware update. Either way they seem like small potatoes compared to the sheer hell we've experienced trying to do simple things such as browse websites on BlackBerrys or Windows smartphones.

However, we have to admit to being bemused that neither you nor your wife can open *Word* and *Excel* files on your iPhone, Joe. They do indeed open fine. Just scroll to the end of your email message with the *Word* file attached and tap on it to open. Have you perhaps not updated your iPhone to the latest version of Apple's firmware using *iTunes*? If not then do it now, because these features will be added straight away and it won't cost you a penny.



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If you're experiencing problems opening *Excel* and *Word* files on your iPhone then download the latest firmware.

Mac FORMAT

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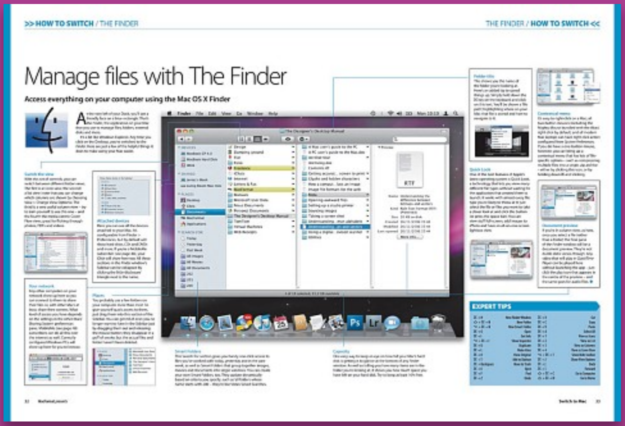

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Access everything on your computer using the Mac OS X Finder

Learn to use Mac OS X 10.5

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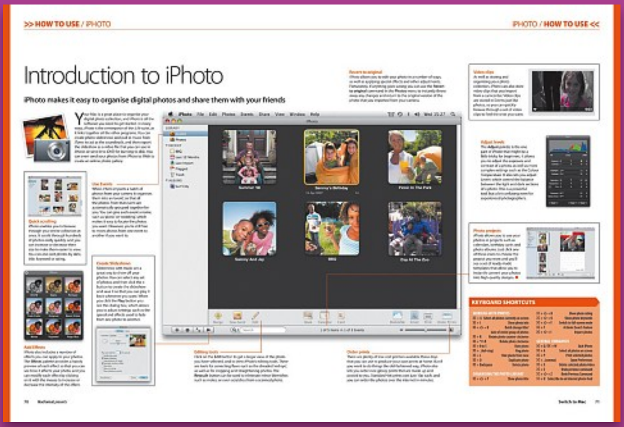

Introduction to iPhoto

iPhoto makes it easy to organise digital photos and share them with your friends

Master the iLife apps!

Learn how to use all the built-in Apple apps

How to buy a refurb Mac

Don't just think eBay to bag a bargain Apple product. The Refurb Store is a goldmine of cut-price Macs and iPods

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MacFormat investigates

Words **Gary Marshall** Photography **Courtesy of Greenpeace**

How green is Apple?

Ancient Macs are still doing sterling service with family and friends, but what should you do when your old Mac gives up the ghost? MacFormat investigates

Macs are built to last – but even Apple kit can and does die. If it's beyond repair, that means you need to dispose of it. You wouldn't dump an old computer in landfill, but many people do. Every year, mountains of electronic waste are shipped to Asia where they're broken down to their component parts in shocking conditions, with heavy metals and hazardous chemicals leaking into the Earth.

Back in 1997, the average lifespan of a computer was six years. By 2005, that had dropped to two years – and the lifespan of a mobile phone is even shorter, with many people upgrading or replacing their phones every 18 months. In an ideal world, everybody who buys an iPhone or switches to a Mac will send their old phone to Oxfam and give their old PC to the Apple Store for recycling. Sadly we don't live in an ideal world, and Greenpeace estimates that up to 50 million tonnes of electronic waste is dumped each and every year.

However, the good news is that things are slowly getting better. Apple has unveiled its greenest Macs yet, it's cut down on bulky packaging, it's removed some of the worst nasties from its products and it's now happy to take old computing kit when you buy new Apple kit. So how green is Apple – and is there anything we can do to make it greener still?

> "The Green My Apple campaign urged Apple customers and shareholders to put pressure on the firm to clean up its act"

Biting Apple

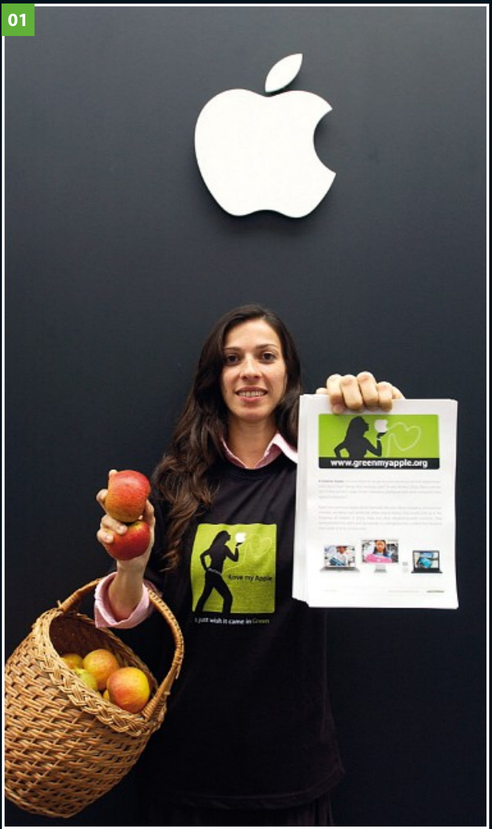
In 2004, environmental campaigners including Greenpeace began publicising the problem of electronic waste. Some firms were more sympathetic than others – in 2005 Steve Jobs described criticism of Apple's green record as "bullshit" – campaigners decided to put as much pressure on Apple as possible. The Green My Apple campaign (**www.greenpeace.org/apple**) urged Apple customers and shareholders to put pressure on the firm to clean up its act.

Tom Dowdall is the co-ordinator of Greenpeace's Toxic Tech campaign. "The most important factor was probably the huge, enthusiastic response of Mac fans," he recalls. "The site received over 690,000 visitors, 50,000 people wrote directly to Steve and thousands of Mac-related blogs, from the biggest to the smallest individual Mac user blogs, linked to the campaign." As Dowdall explains, campaigners felt that Apple would listen to Mac owners. "Apple customers did speak up, and that's maybe what changed Steve's mind." ▶

Gary Marshall / Greenpeace

A young girl holds up an example of Apple's pink past, which had little to boast about in terms of its green record.

01



02

03

[01] The Green My Apple website (now retired) was a huge success, with 50,000 Mac fans emailing Steve Jobs to ask for greener kit.

[02] Remnants of Apple's bulky, ecologically unsound history litter the electrical junk heap.

[03] The signs are telling. Fortunately, Apple's newest products are also more environmentally friendly than ever.

FIVE THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR AGEING APPLE HARDWARE

THE iPHONE PHOTO FRAME

Still got your first-gen iPhone after upgrading to 3G? Us too. If you stick it in the dock, turn off auto-lock and use its photo slideshow feature, it makes a surprisingly good digital photo frame.

THE iPHONE GAMES CONSOLE AND BABY HUSHER

Running in Airplane mode gives the first-generation iPhone excellent battery life, making it ideal as a portable games console or video player. We've used ours to keep babies amused on long flights, but beware: baby drool is as dangerous as the monsters' blood in *Aliens*. A protective case is a sensible investment.

THE MAC MINI PVR

It doesn't take much to turn an ageing Mac mini into a telly hub: Elgato's EyeTV DTT is around £40 (and the bundled software is great), and it's just a matter of days before the biggest external hard disks become cheaper than a loaf of bread.

THE OLD MAC THAT WON'T GET YOU MUGGED

Just because a Mac can't cope with HD video editing doesn't mean it's useless, and Mac laptops can live for an awfully long time. We only recently retired a graphite iBook after years of service as a blogging machine, and if you're travelling a busted old PowerBook is much less of a mugger-magnet than a MacBook Air.

THE LINUX-POWERED FLYING MACHINE

A machine that can't cope with Leopard can still be a flying machine if you run Linux. Although Ubuntu doesn't officially support PowerPC any more, the Ubuntu community is keeping all kinds of old Macs in the loop. You can find out more at **https://wiki.ubuntu.com/PowerPC**.

Was Jobs' cry of "bullshit" justified? Were campaigners picking on Apple unfairly? To an extent, yes. Campaigns need to generate publicity, and "Green My Apple" generated headlines that "Green My Acer" simply wouldn't.

Then again, Apple wasn't entirely blameless. While Apple was gradually becoming greener, it was only doing so when and where laws compelled it to – and as Ted Smith, chair of the Computer TakeBack Campaign (**www.computertakeback.com**) pointed out, "They [were] out there lobbying against recycling bills supported by Dell and HP, they have a limited takeback programme that they don't promote and that's hard to use, and they refuse to commit to a timeline for phasing out toxic materials… maybe 'think different' really means 'don't think about it'."

> "Jobs took swipes at the competition and showed frustration at the way Apple had been singled out"

There was also an inconvenient truth. While other technology firms might have poorer environmental records than Apple, they didn't have Al Gore on the board of directors. The firm's board voted "unanimously" against two shareholder resolutions on environmental issues in 2007 – which means Gore voted against resolutions that the TakeBack Campaign described as "very mild". As campaign vice-chair Robin Schneider put it: "how can he be against making improvements in recycling and phasing out toxic materials? We expect more from someone who is such a strong leader on global warming."

In May 2007 Steve Jobs posted an open letter – A Greener Apple – on the Apple website. In typical Jobs style, he took swipes at the competition and showed some frustration at the way Apple had been singled out, but he made some key promises. Jobs pledged to eliminate the use of arsenic in displays by the end of 2008 and to eventually switch to LED backlighting, eliminating the use of mercury from displays. He also pledged to remove PVC and Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) from the entire Apple product line by the end of this year. Most importantly, Jobs said: "Apple is already a leader in innovation and engineering, and we are applying these same talents to become an environmental leader."

Since then, Jobs has stuck to his word. Unnecessary packaging has been eliminated, Macs are more environmentally friendly than before and the new MacBooks are the greenest laptops Apple has ever made. In his 2008 environmental

Apple now runs a "takeback" recycle scheme in 95% of the countries in which its products are sold. How about 100%, Apple?

update (**http://www.apple.com/environment/update**), Jobs notes that Apple's recycling has increased 57%, that the firm offers "takeback" recycling schemes in 95% of the countries where Apple products are sold, that the firm is making efforts to reduce not just the carbon footprint of its manufacturing processes but the energy consumption of its products too.

What you can do

Apple could make the greenest electronics on the planet, but if its customers don't go green too then it's all pretty pointless. As you'd expect, being a green Apple owner isn't particularly difficult: keep stuff that works, pass it on if you don't need it, and recycle it when it dies.

Apple has two kinds of recycling programmes in the UK. If you buy online – or if you haven't bought anything and just want to recycle old kit – then the UK distributor takeback scheme means you should take your hardware to a council recycling point. You can find the nearest one at **www.recycle-more.co.uk**. Alternatively, when you buy something from an Apple Store you can recycle your old kit by taking it to the Store within 30 days of purchase. In some cases you'll even get a discount, so for example if you recycle an old iPod (except the shuffle) you'll get 10% off a new one.

Apple Stores won't just recycle Apple hardware: if you're buying a Mac to replace an old Windows box, you can recycle that. However, the Apple website is a little bit confusing, because it says that you can recycle "one equivalent piece of electronic equipment" by taking it to the Apple store. But what does "one" mean? Is it one item, such as the CPU, or is it one system, which would include cables, keyboard and monitor? We have no idea and the Apple website doesn't say – so we decided to ask our friendly neighbourhood Apple Store.

Nicola was happy to help. We told her that we'd like to buy a shiny new iMac and dump a decrepit Dell desktop, but we were not sure what we could actually recycle. Is it the whole kit and caboodle, cables and all, or can we only recycle the actual PC bit? Nicola wasn't sure, so she double-checked. Bring in the whole thing, cables and all, she told us. Can we bring the monitor? Yep, that too. Bring everything!

Inevitably, there are limits to what your local Apple Store will take. Cracked monitors, extra batteries, uninterruptible power supplies and nuclear waste are no-nos, and Apple's definition of "equivalent" doesn't include "microwave ovens or washing machines".

> "Apple could make the greenest electronics on the planet, but if its customers don't go green too it's pointless"

Everything's gone green

Apple has delivered exactly what Greenpeace asked for: a greener Apple. So the protesters have stopped protesting, the emailers have stopped emailing, and every time you buy a Mac a polar bear bursts into tears of joy.

Well, not quite. Apple has made huge steps, but going green is a long process – and like all PC manufacturers, Apple can do even more to lessen the environmental impact of its products. One of the problems is that the electronics industry thrives on making us buy new stuff, and Apple is particularly good at it – which is why people with perfectly good first-generation iPhones were queuing outside Apple stores to get the iPhone 3G on the day of release. As Dowdall points out, "The marketing approach… to always ditch the old and buy the latest new version of a gadget you already have is not sustainable. A greener approach would be to offer hardware upgrades to existing gadgets instead of a whole new model, or to change to a lease-style arrangement where customers buy a service instead of a product."

Cutting down on packaging and removing hazardous chemicals is a big step in the right direction, but campaigners would like to see even bigger changes. "Apple is leading the way among PC makers in eliminating toxic chemicals," says Dowdall. "However, they still have much to do on improving recycling, their climate change policy and energy use. Clear leadership on recycling would be offering a free global takeback scheme. Clear leadership on climate issues would be Apple committing to cuts in its greenhouse gas emissions – like HP has – and increasing the total amount of renewable energy it uses globally – like Nokia has."

We can play our part, too. "Don't be afraid to ask for continuous improvement on environmental policies," Dowdall says. "That's a powerful way to push for better corporate practice." Steve Jobs has already pledged to make Apple an "environmental leader". We can make sure he sticks to it. ●

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Page 4 of 7
← prev | next →
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Step 11
Step 12
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BOB THE (RE)BUILDER

Can we fix it? Yes we can! A hardware failure needn't mean saying goodbye to your faithful old Mac – not even if it's a laptop. Spares for old Apple kit are still widely available, and they're not too pricey either. Well, some of them aren't too pricey. A replacement hard disk for a G4 PowerBook is just short of £50 at MacUpgrades.co.uk, while original Apple power adaptors are widely available for £30 to £50. Expect to pay similar sums for old iMacs and even the old clamshell iBooks.

If you fancy fitting the bits yourself you'll find detailed guides at www.ifixit.com and at Apple support (www.apple.com/uk/support/serviceassistant/overview.html), although the latter doesn't cover G3s or older Macs. Battery replacements can be had at Batteriesshop.co.uk – you'll pay around £43 for a battery that works with a G4 PowerBook.

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35 essential Mac fixes

Words **Hollin Jones** Illustrations **Magictorch**

Even Macs can experience problems from time to time. We show you how to solve the most common issues with our troubleshooting guide

A Mac is just about the most stable computer you can buy today, with its operating system and hardware designed specifically to work together. But when it comes to technology, nothing is totally foolproof and problems can – and do – arise from time to time. These range from simple things like not being able to eject a CD right through to problems with startup and force quitting applications. Hardware faults sometimes happen, too, and there are ways to test and replace components if you know what to look for. The good news is, in most cases you can fix Mac problems yourself, and taking your computer to a shop for repair is only usually necessary if a major hardware fault occurs. The old joke about turning a computer off and on again is less relevant these days for Mac users, because OS X is so much more stable than OS 9 ever was, but a restart is still something worth trying if your machine is misbehaving. As someone who has worked in Mac support since the days of OS 8.6, this writer has seen all manner of mystifying and unlikely problems, due to the sheer number of Macs that crossed his desk. The good news is that the vast majority of them could be easily fixed with a bit of expert knowledge and the proportion of Macs that were genuinely beyond help was very small. So if you ever have a problem with your Mac, read on to see how you can fix it yourself… ►

> “You can fix Mac problems yourself, and taking your computer to a shop for repair is only usually necessary if a major hardware fault occurs”

Mac FORMAT On the disc

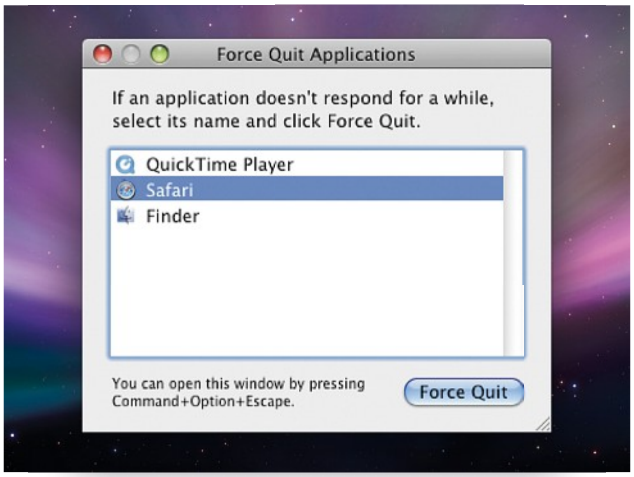
Find related software on this issue's disc.

Top 10 Mac solutions

Solve some of the most common Mac problems with our easy guide…

01 FORCE QUITTING AN APP THAT IS NOT RESPONDING

If an application is not responding, if it's continually bouncing in the Dock or appears to have frozen, you may need to force quit it. You can do this by holding ⌘+⌥+[esc] to bring up the **Force Quit** window, or by choosing **Force Quit** from the menu. After quitting the program, try relaunching it. If it still doesn't work it may be incompatible with your version of OS X. Thankfully, force quitting programs on Macs nowadays doesn't generally affect the stability of the system and doesn't require a restart.


Force Quit Applications

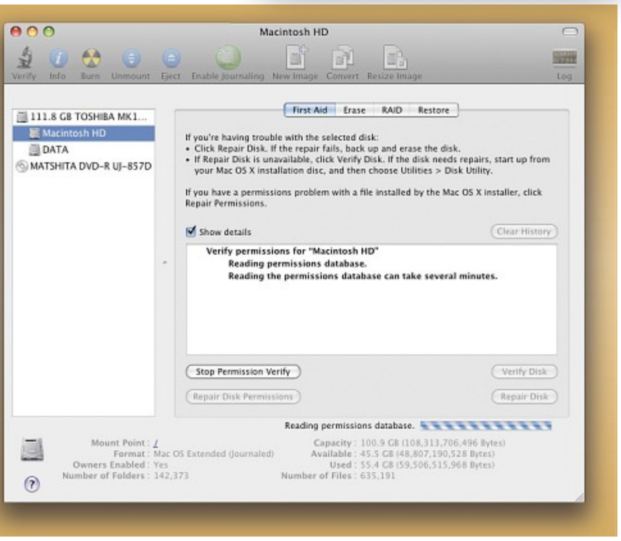
If an application doesn't respond for a while, select its name and click Force Quit.

You can open this window by pressing Command+Option+Escape.

If an app freezes or stops responding, try force quitting it from the **Force Quit** menu.

02 FIXING SOFTWARE UPDATE ERRORS

If you run the *Software Update* application (which can be found in *System Preferences*) on your Mac and are presented with any kind of an error, it could be that you need to repair permissions. OS X is based on a system of permissions telling it which user has access to what files. If these become corrupted, your Mac might erroneously think that you don't have the right privileges to run and install software. Go to Applications > Utilities and open *Disk Utility*. Then, choose your boot drive, this is usually called **Macintosh HD**, and then click the **Repair Disk Permissions** option. After this process has been completed, try the software update process again. Everything should be running back to normal just by going through this simple process.


Macintosh HD

If you're having trouble with the selected disk:
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

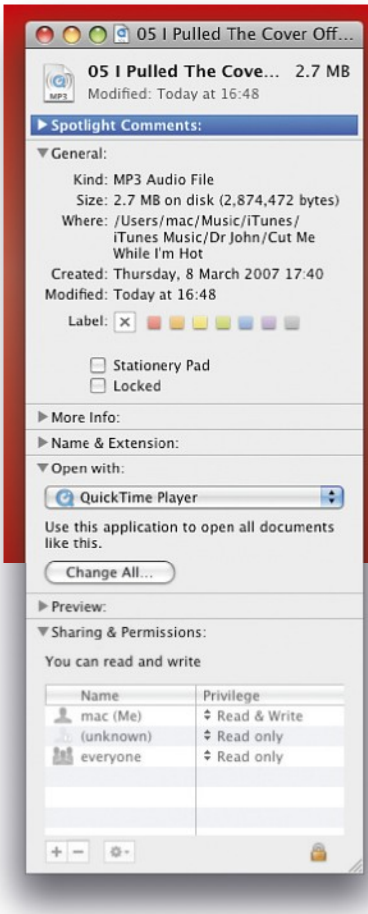
If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Permissions.

☑ Show details

```
Verify permissions for "Macintosh HD"
    Reading permissions database.
    Reading the permissions database can take several minutes.
```

Reading permissions database.

Mount Point : /
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 142,373
Capacity : 100.9 GB (108,313,706,496 Bytes)
Available : 45.5 GB (48,807,190,528 Bytes)
Used : 55.4 GB (59,506,515,968 Bytes)
Number of Files : 635,191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General:
Kind: MP3 Audio File
Size: 2.7 MB on disk (2,874,472 bytes)
Where: /Users/mac/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music/Dr John/Cut Me While I'm Hot
Created: Thursday, 8 March 2007 17:40
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QuickTime Player

Use this application to open all documents like this.

You can read and write

Name	Privilege
mac (Me)	Read & Write
(unknown)	Read only
everyone	Read only

03 OPENING FILES IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

If a file or document is refusing to open but you know which application it should work with, try holding ⌘+⌥ while dropping the file onto the relevant application's icon, either in the Dock or in *Finder*. This should force your chosen application to open the file. It will also force *any* application to try to open a file, though success rates will vary. Alternatively, select the problem file and press ⌘+[I] to open up the **Get Info** window. Then, choose **Open With:** and, from the pull-down menu beneath that option, pick an application to open the file. To make every file of that kind open with that application in the future, click the **Change All…** button.

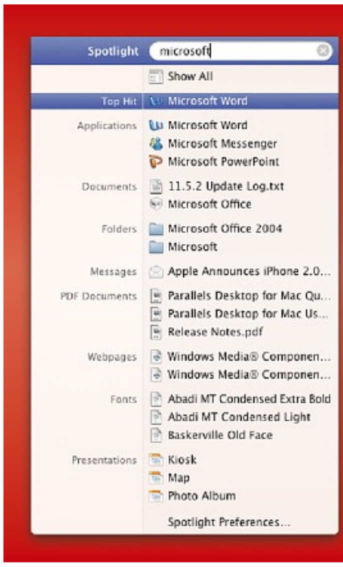
If you have trouble opening a file in the correct application, you may have to force open it.

04 MAKING SOME SPACE AND ADDING MORE RAM

If your Mac is feeling sluggish and simple tasks are taking longer than usual to do, check that the boot drive isn't getting too full by selecting it and pressing ⌘+[I] to **Get Info** on it. Look at its size and how much available free space is left on it. If it's less than 20% of the drive's size that's free, you'll need to offload some stuff either onto DVDs or onto external hard drives to free up space. Good candidates include movies, *iPhoto* and *iTunes* libraries, plus any applications you don't use much. Also look at fitting more RAM to your Mac as this will also help greatly with performance.

05 EJECTING A DISC THAT'S STUCK IN YOUR MAC

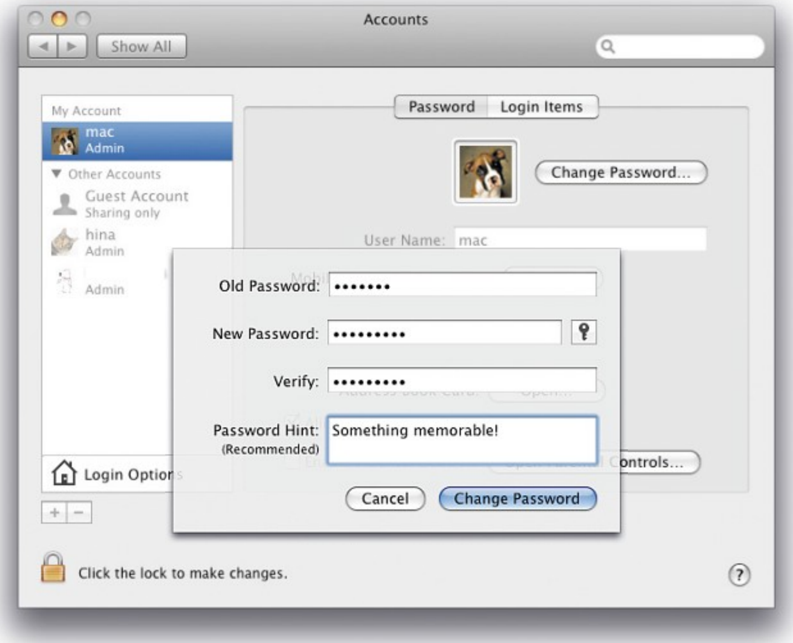
If a CD or DVD refuses to eject, and it's definitely not in use by any programs, try restarting the Mac whilst holding down the left mouse button. This should force the opening of all optical drives and eject your troublesome disc. You could also open *Terminal* and type **drutil tray open**, then hit [Enter]. If other devices like USB or FireWire hard drives, memory sticks or iPods refuse to eject, the safest course of action is to shut down the Mac, disconnect the device and then restart. Often, a device will then behave normally.


Spotlight
Show All
Top Hit
Microsoft Word
Applications
Microsoft Word
Microsoft Messenger
Microsoft PowerPoint
Documents
11.5.2 Update Log.txt
Microsoft Office
Folders
Microsoft Office 2004
Microsoft
Messages
Apple Announces iPhone 2.0...
PDF Documents
Parallels Desktop for Mac Qu...
Parallels Desktop for Mac Us...
Release Notes.pdf
Webpages
Windows Media® Componen...
Windows Media® Componen...
Fonts
Abadi MT Condensed Extra Bold
Abadi MT Condensed Light
Baskerville Old Face
Presentations
Kiosk
Map
Photo Album
Spotlight Preferences...

Spotlight: microsoft

06 FINDING A FILE THAT'S MISSING ON YOUR MAC

We all like to think that we're super organised by storing our documents and files in relevant folders on our Macs, but every now and then we forget to put them somewhere sensible and a file ends up somewhere completely obscure. If you can't find a file or folder that you think may be somewhere on your Mac, you can use Mac OS X's built-in Spotlight search system to find it. Click on the **Spotlight** icon (small blue circle with a magnifying glass inside) at the top-right of the menu bar and type the name of the file or even just part of its name. From the resulting list you should be able to see the missing file and open it – as long as it's on your Mac, of course! Alternatively, press ⌘+[F] to open the search window, and run a search based on its filename and also date opened, date created, file type or any of the available criteria. The more information you can enter, the easier the search will be.


Accounts
Show All
My Account
mac
Admin
Other Accounts
Guest Account
Sharing only
hina
Admin
Admin
Login Options
Password
Login Items
Change Password...
Controls...
Cancel
Change Password
Click the lock to make changes.

User Name: mac

Old Password: •••••••

New Password: •••••••••

Verify: •••••••••

Password Hint: (Recommended) Something memorable!

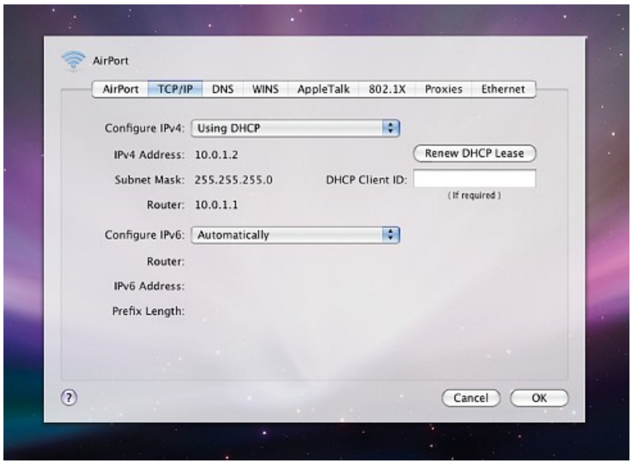
If you forget your Administrator password you will have to restart your Mac from the OS X install DVD to reset it.

07 RESETTING YOUR ADMIN PASSWORD

Forgetting your Administrator password can be a real pain when you want to install a new piece of software or run Apple's *Software Update* application. If you have a vague idea of what the password is you can try entering it, but if this doesn't work you will have to boot the Mac from the OS X install DVD that came with it, by restarting with the disc inserted in the optical drive whilst holding the [C] key down. Then select Utilities > Reset Password and choose a new one. When you reboot the new password should be working.

08 DETECTING A SECOND OR EXTERNAL MONITOR

If you connect a second screen or external monitor but it isn't recognised, try using the **Detect Displays** button in System Preferences > Displays. The port may be set to use a resolution that the screen doesn't support. If this doesn't help, restart whilst holding down ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] until you hear the startup chime twice. This resets the PRAM and often forces the Mac to scan its ports and look again at what is connected. This usually brings the monitor online. It also helps with forcing a Mac to recognise external audio devices.


AirPort
AirPort
TCP/IP
DNS
WINS
AppleTalk
802.1X
Proxies
Ethernet
Renew DHCP Lease
Cancel
OK

Configure IPv4: Using DHCP

IPv4 Address: 10.0.1.2

Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0

Router: 10.0.1.1

DHCP Client ID: (If required)

Configure IPv6: Automatically

Router:

IPv6 Address:

Prefix Length:

If you have lost your AirPort connection, try restarting or renewing the DHCP lease.

09 GETTING BACK YOUR LOST AIRPORT CONNECTION

It's always a pain when you want to work over a wireless network but you can't get a connection. If you lose your WiFi connection, check to see that AirPort hasn't accidentally been switched off. Or, go to System Preferences > Network and, from the AirPort > TCP/IP section, click the button called **Renew DHCP Lease**, which may fix the problem. Another reason for the loss of signal could be that you have simply wandered out of range of a network, so click the **AirPort** icon to see if the network is still available. If all else fails, try logging out and in again or even restarting, as this sometimes cures any glitches with AirPort.

Windows Media® Components for QuickTime
Windows Media
Play Windows Media files in your
QuickTime Player
Optimized for High-Definition Playback
Upgrade to Advanced Features
System Requirements
Playback Features

10 FIXES FOR VIEWING WMV FILES

The web is awash with video formats and not all of them are particularly Mac friendly. The one you're most likely to encounter is Windows Media Video. Go to **www.flip4mac.com** and download *Flip4Mac*, a free codec that enables the *QuickTime Player* to read WMV files. Alternatively, download the *VLC Player* from the disc. It can play back many weird and wonderful video formats, though it's not the world's most elegant piece of software. Finally you can install *Perian* from **perian.org**, which provides *QuickTime* with a raft of codecs to help it open other kinds of videos you may come across.

Startup issues

Problems with starting up your Mac are not unheard of, but help is at hand…

QUICK TIP

Booting in Safe Mode

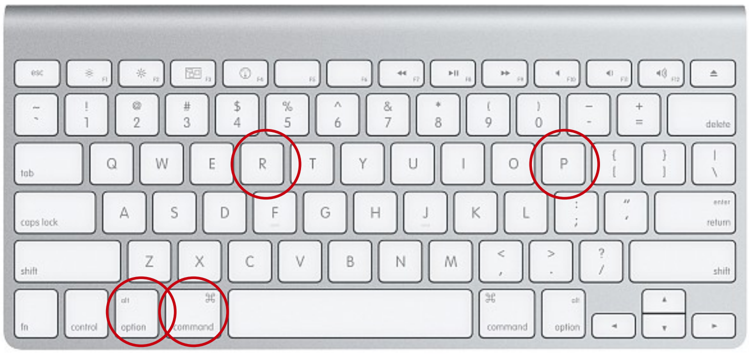
If you hold down the ⇧ key during startup your Mac will boot in **Safe Mode**, temporarily disabling login items and non-essential system files. Then you can move or delete offending items and hopefully reboot as normal.

Statistically speaking, starting up from cold is the time when your Mac is at the greatest risk of suffering a problem. In many cases, it will be software rather than hardware that causes any strange behaviour, which is the lesser evil since it's usually easier to fix. Failure to boot up reliably can be symptomatic of something more serious, but much more common problems are slow boot times and slow logins. Let's look at these in turn.

Starting up

Your Mac loads an awful lot of code before it gets to the *Finder* view you're used to seeing, and the longer you've had the Mac, the greater the chances that there's a lot of legacy stuff hanging around which can slow down the startup process. A "vanilla" or completely fresh system will generally start up quickly on any modern Mac, but as you install programs over the years and fill up your boot drive, the computer has to perform more disk activity and sift through more startup items, even unused ones, before it can finish booting. One remedy for this is to use an uninstaller program like *AppZapper* or *AppDelete* to delete any unused apps on your system, including all associated support and library files. You can trash the application's folder, but this by itself won't get rid of other resources placed elsewhere in the system when it was installed. If you go to Macintosh HD > Library > StartupItems you will see the user-installed things that your Mac is loading as it boots. Typically, these are services that applications or peripherals need to run properly such as printers, scanners or dongle security enablers. It's possible to delete items from this folder, but be careful that you don't trash anything that you actually need. If you are absolutely sure that you can go ahead – for example, if you find resource files for a printer that you no longer use – removing them can help improve boot times. This folder is part of the system and is read before anyone logs in, so changing its contents will affect all user accounts. In addition, keeping your boot drive relatively clear by offloading media files and large *iTunes* libraries onto secondary drives will help overall performance.

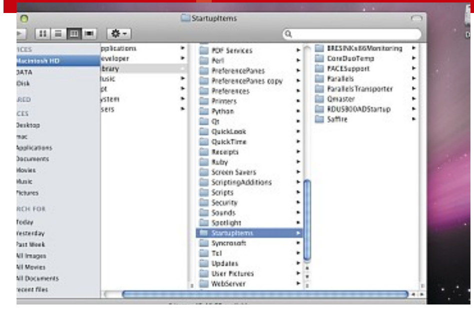
Slow logins are another potential problem and are solved in a similar way to that just mentioned. In this case the



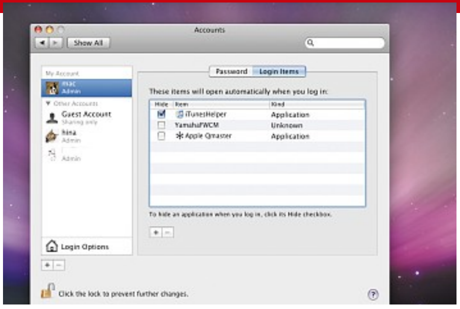
Resetting the PRAM by holding down ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] until your hear the chime twice can fix problems with unrecognised devices.

> "Keeping your boot drive clear by moving media files and large iTunes libraries will help performance"

STEP BY STEP How to manage login and startup items



01 Go to your boot drive, **Macintosh HD**, then navigate to Library > StartupItems. You will see the items your Mac loads during its initial startup phase associated with third-party apps. Since we no longer need the interface driver, it can be deleted, which will speed up booting a little.



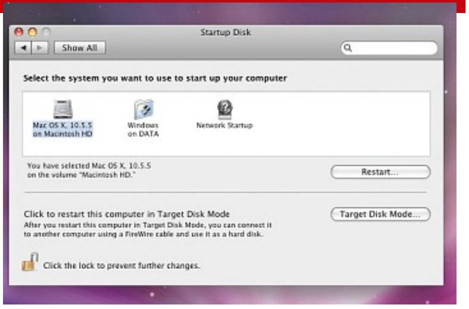
These items will open automatically when you log in:

Hide	Item	Kind
☑	iTunesHelper	Application
☐	YamahaFWCM	Unknown
☐	Apple Qmaster	Application

To hide an application when you log in, click its Hide checkbox.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

02 Go to System Preferences > Accounts > Login Items. Here you can see what is set to load when you log in. It could be that when you installed peripherals like printers, scanners or gaming devices they placed code or applications in here. If you know you no longer need a particular device, you can remove its associated login items.



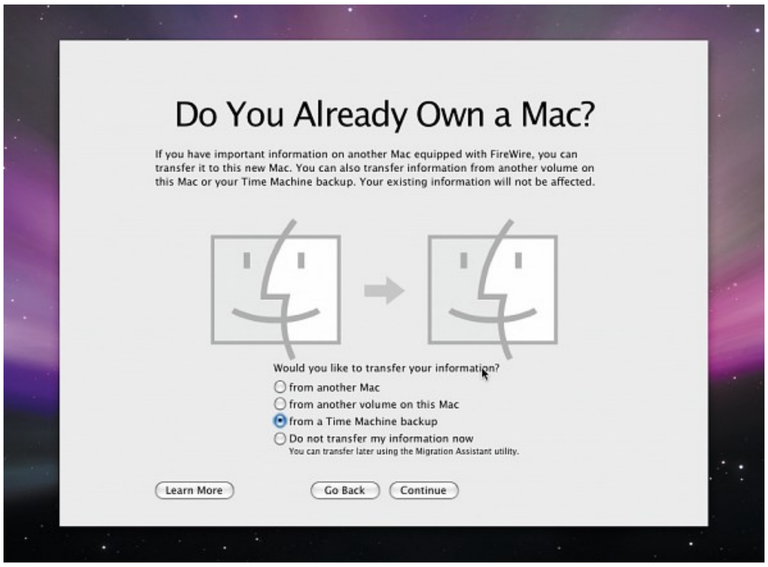
Select the system you want to use to start up your computer

You have selected Mac OS X, 10.5.5 on the volume "Macintosh HD."

Click to restart this computer in Target Disk Mode
After you restart this computer in Target Disk Mode, you can connect it to another computer using a FireWire cable and use it as a hard disk.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

03 To choose a different startup drive, go to System Preferences > Startup Disk and choose from available local volumes including bootable CDs or DVDs and a *Boot Camp* partition if there is one. Or, when starting up, hold down [C] to boot from CD/DVD or hold down ⌥ to bring up the volume selection screen. ●



Do You Already Own a Mac?

If you have important information on another Mac equipped with FireWire, you can transfer it to this new Mac. You can also transfer information from another volume on this Mac or your Time Machine backup. Your existing information will not be affected.

Would you like to transfer your information?

○ from another Mac
○ from another volume on this Mac
● from a Time Machine backup
○ Do not transfer my information now
You can transfer later using the Migration Assistant utility.

Time Machine creates a clone of your system, so you can revert to the last working system if your HD fails or your system corrupts.

offending items are likely to be located in the System Preferences > Accounts > Login Items section. When you install some peripherals like scanners or printers, or if you ever choose to allow an application to open at login, these things will appear in this list. Each one must be loaded by the system, which takes time. If you select any unwanted items and hit the minus button to remove them you should notice an improvement in login speed.

Nuts and bolts

If your Mac exhibits startup problems following a system update, you may have to boot from the OS X install DVD and run disk repair on the boot drive, then try a restart. If you are running OS X 10.5 and regularly back up using *Time Machine*, it should also be possible to roll back the system to its pre-updated state by booting from a system disc, connecting the backup drive and choosing **Restore System** from *Time Machine*. This will replace the corrupted system with a working one, though it's something of a last resort.

Before you have to do that, though, or if you are not using *Time Machine* as your backup choice, there are a few other tricks to try to fix startup problems. Holding down ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] at startup until you hear the startup chime twice will reset the Mac's PRAM, which sometimes clears out strange glitches. On a PowerPC-based Mac like a G4 or G5, you can hold down ⌘+⌥+[O]+[F] to boot into Open Firmware. Then, if you type **reset-nvram** followed by **reset-all** your firmware will be reset and the Mac will reboot, which can deal with some otherwise unexplained booting or stability issues.

Startup modes

There's no easy way to access an Intel Mac's version of open firmware, which is known as EFI, but on all OS X systems you can boot straight into the UNIX heart of your system, bypassing the normal startup procedure in an attempt to solve startup problems. Be aware that as well as helping, you can unwittingly do great harm to your system from the command line, so if you're brave enough to enter this world, stick to the exact commands. If you hold ⌘+[V] during startup you will enter **Verbose Mode**, which uses text to display what is being loaded during startup. This can help you to identify the point at which a fault may be occurring by seeing where the startup fails. By holding ⌘+[S] during startup you enter **Single User Mode**. Here you can run deep level disk checking. At the command prompt, type **/sbin/fsck –fy** and the system will check the drive thoroughly, which may take a while. If any errors are found, repeat the command to run the check a second or even third time until it stops reporting problems. At that point, type **reboot** and press [Enter] and see if that has solved the problem.

> "When major system updates are released, wait a few days before installing them to see if they exhibit problems"

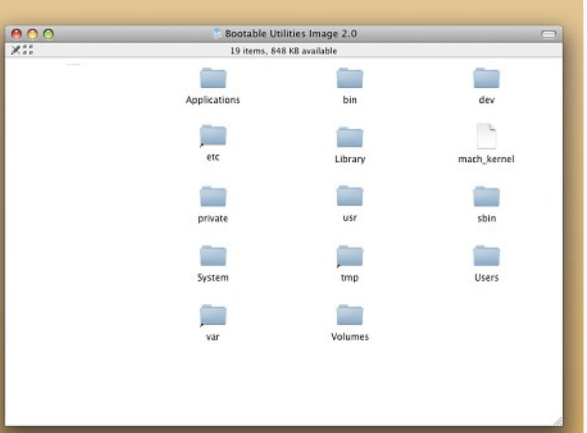
A further option, if none of the above methods work for you, is to perform an archive and install procedure. Boot from the OS X install DVD, choose to install OS X and then choose the **Archive and Install** installation type. This will install a fresh system and 'quarantine' the old one without deleting it. If you think some element of the system software may be the problem, you can check the box marked **preserve users and network settings** and this will import your **Home** folder and personal data and settings. The trick then, if the new system works, is to bring it back up to date without repeating the step that caused the problem in the first place. As an aside, when major system updates are released it's often advisable to wait at least a few days before installing them and watch for reports on the web to see if they exhibit problems. This way you can save yourself some potential headaches. ►

BOOTING FROM DISC

You may have noticed that in Mac troubleshooting there's a fairly heavy reliance on booting from discs. This is because doing so bypasses many of the Mac's internal components – notably the system, hard drive and any PCI cards, which can be the source of a problem.

Since you can't repair a running system or work reliably with a failing drive, it's necessary to start up from a stripped down system on an optical disc in order to run disk repair or troubleshooting programs. These applications need complete access to a drive to attempt to repair it, which they only get when the drive is not in use by a system. The discs contain drivers for things like the display, so that even though OS X itself is only running in a very basic form, you still get support for screens, keyboards and mice. Booting from disc also removes from the equation any third-party extensions or drivers that may be causing problems, although booting into **Safe Mode** also temporarily does this.

Of course, if your optical drive has failed you should still be able to boot from disc using an external optical drive. In cases of failing hard drives, you can boot from an OS X DVD – making sure it's the right one for your PPC or Intel Mac – and install a fresh system on a secondary or external drive in order to use the Mac as normal while you deal with replacing the troublesome drive.



Bootable system and repair discs contain stripped down versions of OS X plus troubleshooting apps.

QUICK TIP

Mac OS X, 10.5.5
on Macintosh HD

Alternative startups

If you hold down the key combination ⌘+⇧+⌥+[Delete] during startup you will force your Mac to seek alternative startup volumes, which is handy if a boot drive is misbehaving.

Hardware hacks

When hardware fails it's traumatic, but it's not always as serious as it seems

QUICK TIP

Reintroduce hardware

Since OS X became the standard on Macs, problems caused by peripherals are much less common. Nevertheless, if there's a strange issue with sound, video or freezing on your Mac, your first step should be to disconnect all peripherals and restart. Then, reintroduce them one by one and see which one is the culprit.

Hardware problems in Macs are relatively rare. The odd batch of Macs has been known to exhibit a common flaw, and sometimes a component will fail. Tracking down which bit of the Mac has gone bad can be tricky, as any key component failing can initially result in an apparently dead machine. In many cases, however, once you have identified the culprit and replaced or repaired it, the Mac can be back on top form and live for many happy years.

Drive on

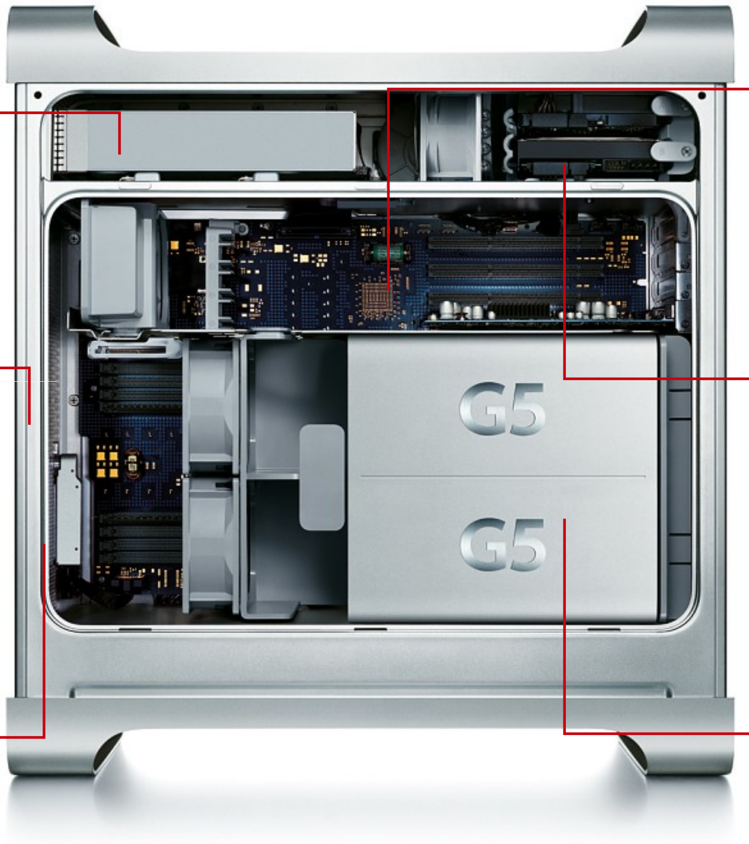
Hard drives can be susceptible to failure, as they receive more of a thrashing than any other component. With any hardware troubleshooting, you will usually end up booting from a system DVD as this is the standard way to bypass the Mac's own drives and systems to diagnose faults. Once there, run *Disk Utility* on the boot drive and see if it picks up any errors. A dying hard drive will be flagged up in red, which is a sign that it should be backed up and replaced as soon as possible. Of course, without a working system, this can be difficult so what you have to do is boot the Mac, either from an external FireWire or USB 2.0 hard drive or in **Target Disk Mode** from another Mac by connecting the ailing machine over FireWire and holding down its [T] key whilst powering it on. With luck, the problem drive should mount as a volume on the secondary Mac and you can copy all the data off it.

> "Hard drives can be susceptible to failure, as they receive more of a thrashing than any other component"

External drives

To boot an unwell Mac from an external system, connect the external drive with a working system installed and hold the ⌥ key during startup. This should let you choose the external drive as a boot source and also, incidentally, let you choose any *Boot Camp* partition set up on an Intel Mac. Once booted you should copy the data off the failing drive as soon as possible. Replacing a hard drive in a tower or newer portable Mac is straightforward, though in an older PowerBook or iBook can be a job for a

CLOSER LOOK | Inside a G5 tower



Optical drives
The optical drive in many tower Macs is not too difficult to replace in the event of a failure. Not all optical drives are compatible with Macs though – first you should check your drive's compatibility.

Just like a Mac Pro
The G5 Power Mac was the forerunner to today's Mac Pro, and uses the same aluminium case. On the outside you're hard pressed to tell the two systems apart.

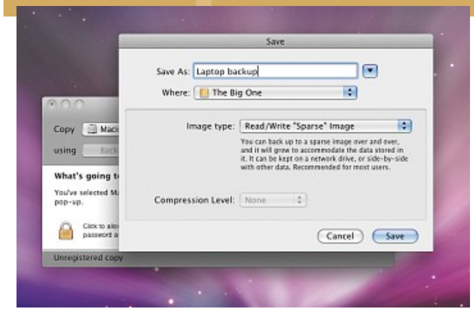
Ports and graphics
If your FireWire, USB ports or even graphics card dies, it's possible to add new ones using a PCI card-based upgrade fairly easily.

Faulty RAM
Faulty RAM can be identified by running diagnostics or removing all sticks then reintroducing them gradually to see which ones cause the problem. Remember to take all the usual precautions when opening up your Mac.

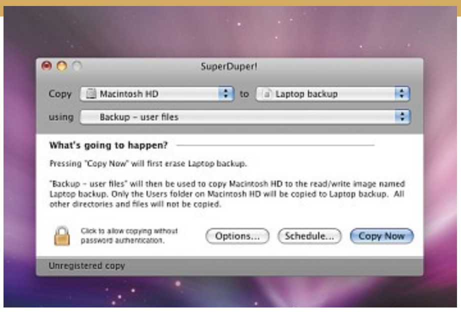
Hard drive
Hard drives can be easily swapped out in towers and newer Mac laptops if the old ones die. Copy data off them or clone them first if you can. Where replacing a drive is tricky, say in older, non-tower Macs, consider an external, bootable drive as an alternative.

Processor
You can't upgrade your processor without buying a special upgrade kit, like the ones sold by Sonnet. Older Macs use Power PC chips, and newer ones use Intel.

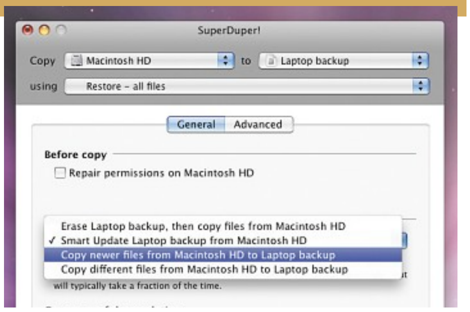
STEP BY STEP How to clone a system with SuperDuper


Save As: Laptop backup
Where: The Big One
Image type: Read/Write "Sparse" Image
You can back up to a sparse image over and over, and it will grow to accommodate the data stored in it. It can be kept on a network drive, or side-by-side with other data. Recommended for most users.
Compression Level: None

01 Download and install *SuperDuper* from the disc and then fire up the program. From the **Copy** menu, select the drive you'd like to back up. Then from the **to** menu, choose the connected target drive or **Disk Image**. If you do this, you will be able to choose the location for a disk image file which will contain all the relevant files.


Copy Macintosh HD to Laptop backup
using Backup – user files
What's going to happen?
Pressing "Copy Now" will first erase Laptop backup.
"Backup – user files" will then be used to copy Macintosh HD to the read/write image named Laptop backup. Only the Users folder on Macintosh HD will be copied to Laptop backup. All other directories and files will not be copied.

02 With a location chosen, go to the **using** menu and choose a backup type. **all files** will backup everything, and **user files** will copy only the **User** folder and its contents. Click on the **Options** button and you can choose how the backup will be performed – a full backup or just incremental files.


Copy Macintosh HD to Laptop backup
using Restore – all files
Before copy
☐ Repair permissions on Macintosh HD
Erase Laptop backup, then copy files from Macintosh HD
✓ Smart Update Laptop backup from Macintosh HD
Copy newer files from Macintosh HD to Laptop backup
Copy different files from Macintosh HD to Laptop backup
will typically take a fraction of the time.

03 Hit **Copy Now** to perform the backup. If you are replacing a broken hard drive, choose **backup – all files to copy everything to another drive**. Then, replace the hard drive with a new one and use **restore – all files** to restore the old system to the new drive. You will need to boot from a working system in the meantime. ●

professional. If you have a tower Mac like a G5 or a Mac Pro there's no reason you can't just install a fresh system or restore a backed up system onto one of the other internal drives, making sure of course that you don't erase anything important from it in the process. If you're working with portable hard drives, remember that there is an incompatibility between PowerPC and Intel Macs in the sense that each one requires a disk to be formatted using a different partition map, and so a drive can't contain both a PPC and an Intel compatible system – it's one or the other. Actually there is a way around this, but it's complex and the vast majority of users can live without it. There are also issues about booting from certain devices. PowerPC Macs are much happier booting from external FireWire drives and Intel Macs from USB 2.0 drives.

Recent MacBooks and MacBook Pros have made accessing and replacing hard drives easier. It's now just a case of unscrewing a few simple components.

Memory matters

Faulty RAM can sometimes throw up problems, and the way to deal with this is to shut down and power off, then remove the RAM sticks and reintroduce them gradually, rebooting each time and see at what point the fault reappears. Issues like graphics cards and RAM going bad can be harder to diagnose. If your Mac came with a Hardware Test CD, booting from it and running the tests can reveal where a fault lies. Alternatively, a third-party solution like *DiskWarrior* or *TechTool* can help. *DiskWarrior* is able to rebuild corrupted volume structures, which can resurrect an otherwise scrambled drive. *TechTool* can analyse all your hardware and report on any errors it finds. Neither program is 100% foolproof, but both have a good reputation for solving or identifying baffling Mac problems.

Back from the dead

If you have a hardware fault and your Mac is in warranty or you are inside your AppleCare cover, you can get it fixed by Apple for free. If you're not covered, you have to decide whether there may be cheaper alternatives to costly Apple Centre repairs. For example, replacing an optical drive in a laptop is a job for a professional, but an external burner can be cheap and do as good a job. Replacing RAM and hard drives in towers is straightforward, and even graphics cards can be swapped out. On other Macs, if your screen dies out of warranty, replacing it can be expensive. But if it has a monitor output, you could buy a cheap external flat screen. If your keyboard goes on a laptop, consider a USB keyboard. If the hard drive goes on an older laptop, boot it from a system on an external drive and it could well live on as a desk-bound but perfectly usable machine. With Apple *Remote Desktop*, you can use a Mac with a dead screen and keyboard, provided the rest of the system works. If something fundamental like a logic board or a power supply dies, though, it's time to take it to a professional for repair. Even so, ruling out other problems by taking diagnostic steps can speed up the process and save you money, as the repair people won't have to spend time analysing the Mac and just repair the damaged component. ►

> "Replacing a laptop's optical drive is a job for a pro, but an external burner can be cheap and do a good job"

QUICK TIP

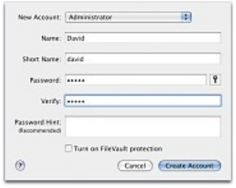
Backing up

If you need to back up a failing Mac prior to replacing a component, boot it into **FireWire Target Mode** from another Mac and then use something like *Carbon Copy Cloner* or *SuperDuper* to clone the drive safely.

Expert solutions

When the going gets tough, try these more advanced techniques

QUICK TIP



New Account: Administrator
Name: David
Short Name: david
Password: •••••
Verify: •••••
Password Hint: (Recommended)
☐ Turn on FileVault protection

User account problems

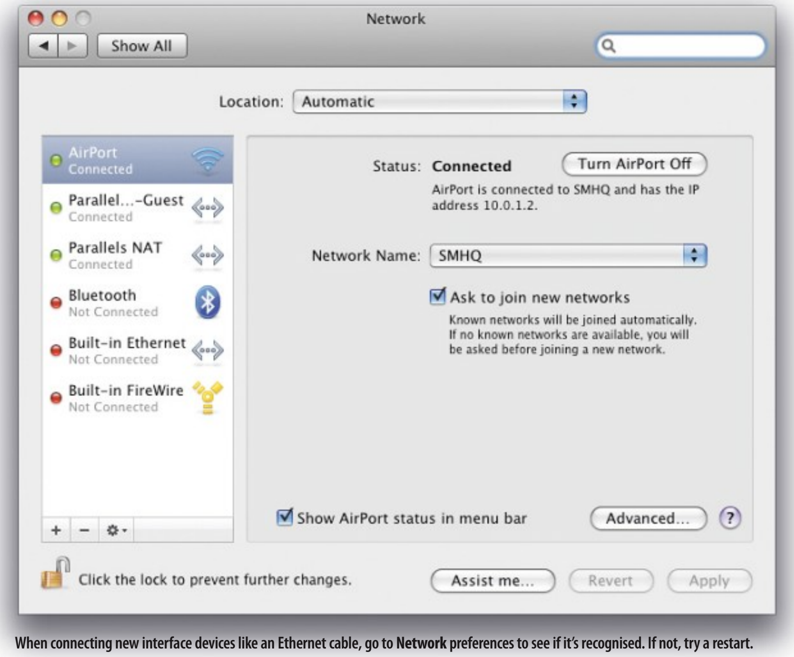
If you can't get to the root of a problem with a user account, try creating a new account and log in with that. If the problem persists, it's probably an issue with the system and not the user.

The majority of problems you could encounter with your Mac can be solved easily, but there will always be some that require lateral thinking. *Terminal*, in Applications > Utilities, is a program for directly accessing the core of OS X at a command line level. With it you can access and modify all sorts of parameters, but if used incorrectly it can completely mess up your system. To use *Terminal* you need an Administrator , but you should only proceed if you are confident using the utility.

Terminal tricks

If an app refuses to quit, or your Mac appears to be idle but the processor is working overtime, open *Terminal* and type **top**. This lists all running processes; in the **%CPU** column you will see which one is using all the power. If it's a process that's not supposed to be running, note its PID number from the **PID** column and open a new *Terminal* window. Then, type **kill** followed by the PID number, press [Enter] and OS X will terminate the thread.

To find out your Mac's IP details, type **ifconfig** into *Terminal*, which displays all available network interfaces plus their MAC addresses. Typing **disktool -e disk#** and replacing the # with a drive number will eject any drive. You can find a drive's number using *System Profiler*. Do not attempt to unmount the boot drive. If a networked volume refuses to unmount, type **umount -f /Volumes/volumename** and replace **volumename** with the name of the networked drive. It is possible to delete stubborn files and folders from *Terminal*, but with one slip or wrong character you can delete the wrong thing, so restart to render the item no longer in use. A handy command is, type **defaults write com.apple.Safari WebKitInitialTimedLayoutDelay 0.25** in *Terminal* and press [Enter], you can speed up *Safari* by reducing the time it waits to load data before displaying it.



Location: Automatic

AirPort — Connected
Parallel...-Guest — Connected
Parallels NAT — Connected
Bluetooth — Not Connected
Built-in Ethernet — Not Connected
Built-in FireWire — Not Connected

Status: Connected

AirPort is connected to SMHQ and has the IP address 10.0.1.2.

Network Name: SMHQ

☑ Ask to join new networks

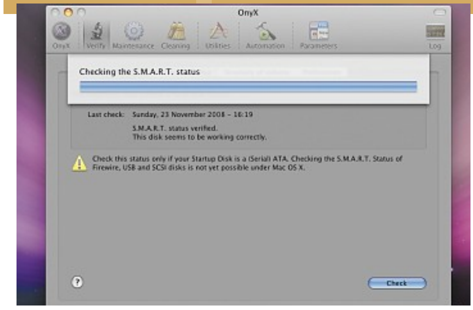
Known networks will be joined automatically. If no known networks are available, you will be asked before joining a new network.

☑ Show AirPort status in menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

When connecting new interface devices like an Ethernet cable, go to **Network** preferences to see if it's recognised. If not, try a restart.

STEP BY STEP How to verify and maintain your system with OnyX



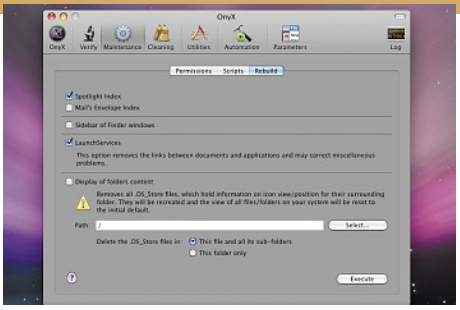
Checking the S.M.A.R.T. status

Last check: Sunday, 23 November 2008 – 16:19

S.M.A.R.T. status verified.
This disk seems to be working correctly.

Check this status only if your Startup Disk is a (Serial) ATA. Checking the S.M.A.R.T. Status of Firewire, USB and SCSI disks is not yet possible under Mac OS X.

01 Download and install *OnyX*, then fire it up. It's recommended to back up before performing any maintenance. In the **Verify** tab, you can make *OnyX* check the structure and reliability status of your startup volume, which is recommended every once in a while to catch any problems before they become serious.



☑ Spotlight Index
☐ Mail's Envelope Index
☐ Sidebar of Finder windows
☑ LaunchServices

This option removes the links between documents and applications and may correct miscellaneous problems.

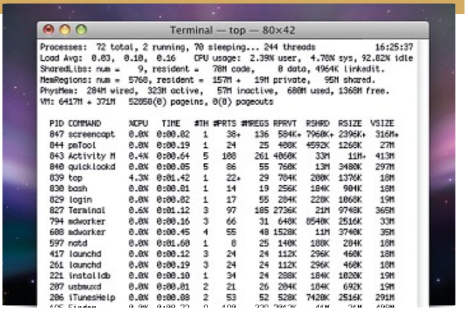
☐ Display of folders content

Removes all .DS_Store files, which hold information on icon view/position for their surrounding folder. They will be recreated and the view of all files/folders on your system will be reset to the initial default.

Path: /

Delete the .DS_Store files in: ● This file and all its sub-folders ○ This folder only

02 In Maintenance > Rebuild, you have the option to rebuild the Spotlight index, which is helpful if you are having problems with Spotlight. If you have been having problems opening files, try rebuilding the LaunchServices database from this menu, as it often corrects problems between files and their helper apps.



```
Processes:  72 total, 2 running, 70 sleeping... 244 threads            16:25:37
Load Avg:  0.03,  0.10,  0.16    CPU usage:  2.39% user,  4.78% sys, 92.82% idle
SharedLibs: num =    9, resident =   78M code,     0 data, 4964K linkedit.
MemRegions: num =  5768, resident =  157M +   19M private,   95M shared.
PhysMem:  284M wired,  323M active,   57M inactive,  680M used, 1368M free.
VM: 6417M + 371M   52858(0) pageins, 0(0) pageouts

  PID COMMAND      %CPU   TIME    #TH #PRTS #MREGS RPRVT  RSHRD  RSIZE  VSIZE
  847 screencapt   0.0%  0:00.02   1    38+   136  584K+ 7968K+ 2396K+  316M+
  844 pmTool       0.0%  0:00.19   1    24     25  408K  4592K  1268K    27M
  843 Activity M   0.4%  0:00.64   5   108    261 4060K    33M    11M+  413M
  840 quicklookd   0.0%  0:00.05   5    86     55  760K    13M  3480K   297M
  839 top          4.3%  0:01.42   1    22+    29  704K   200K  1376K    18M
  830 bash         0.0%  0:00.01   1    14     19  256K   184K   904K    18M
  829 login        0.0%  0:00.02   1    17     55  204K   220K  1068K    19M
  827 Terminal     0.6%  0:01.12   3    97    185 2736K    21M  9748K   365M
  794 mdworker     0.0%  0:00.16   3    66     31  640K  8540K  2516K    33M
  608 mdworker     0.0%  0:00.45   4    55     48 1528K    11M  3740K    35M
  597 notd         0.0%  0:01.60   1     8     25  140K   188K   204K    18M
  417 launchd      0.0%  0:00.12   3    24     24  112K   296K   460K    18M
  261 launchd      0.0%  0:00.19   3    24     24  112K   296K   460K    18M
  221 installdb    0.0%  0:00.10   1    34     24  288K   184K  1020K    19M
  207 usbmuxd      0.0%  0:00.01   2    21     26  204K   184K   692K    19M
  206 iTunesHelp   0.0%  0:00.08   2    53     52  528K  7428K  2516K   291M
```

03 In the **Automation** section, you can repair permissions and clean out the various system and user caches, which can speed up the computer and deal with inexplicable application crashes or launch problems, and problems with *Software Update*. After performing these tasks you will need to restart the Mac. ●

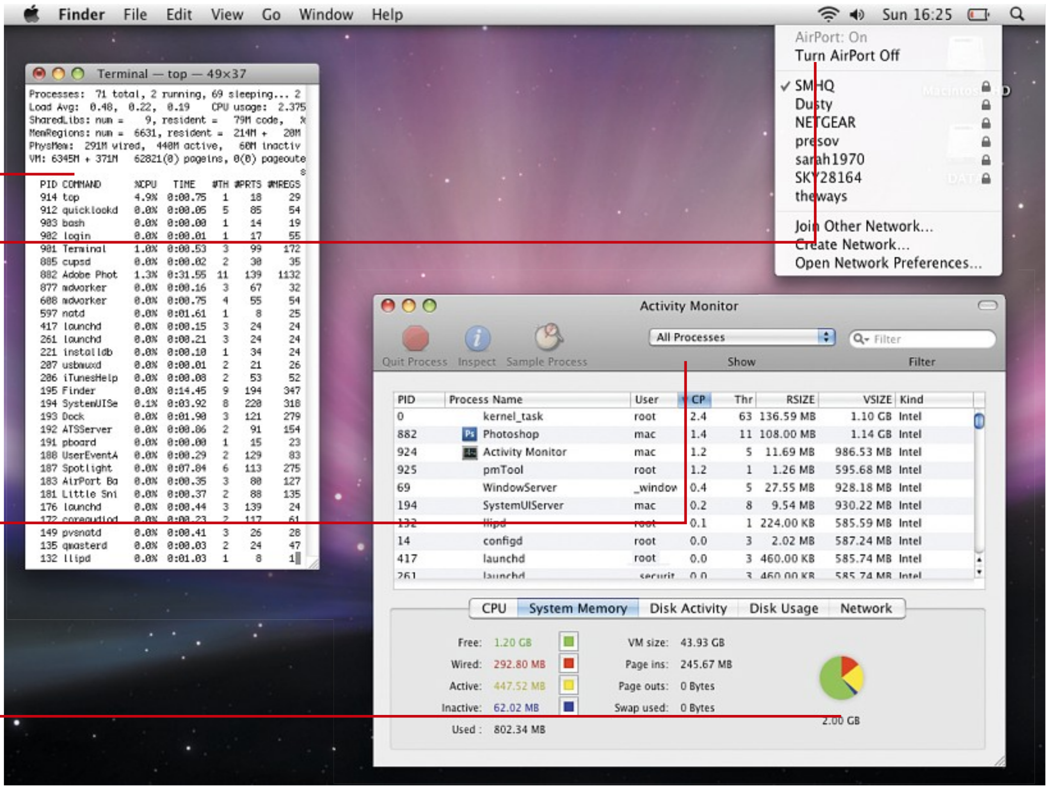
CLOSER LOOK | Expert troubleshooting tips

Top Terminal tip
This is *Terminal*, displaying the **top** command to list all running processes. Use this to identify anything that's eating too much CPU when it's not supposed to be.

Network problems
AirPort connections usually require a password, so you'll need to know it to join a network. Also, keep an eye on the signal strength.

Force quitting processes
Activity Monitor can show processes by type. Any system process is best left alone. User processes are things you have started, so safer to quit.

Activity Monitor
Activity Monitor can also display information vital to helping you get to the root of problems, such as how much RAM is in use and whether a disk is becoming too full.



```
Processes:  71 total, 2 running, 69 sleeping... 2
Load Avg:  0.48,  0.22,  0.19    CPU usage:  2.375
SharedLibs: num =    9, resident =   79M code,   %
MemRegions: num =  6631, resident =  214M +   20M
PhysMem:  291M wired,  440M active,   60M inactiv
VM: 6345M + 371M   62821(0) pageins, 0(0) pageoute
                                                 s
  PID COMMAND      %CPU   TIME    #TH #PRTS #MREGS
  914 top          4.9%  0:00.75   1    18     29
  912 quicklookd   0.0%  0:00.05   5    85     54
  903 bash         0.0%  0:00.00   1    14     19
  902 login        0.0%  0:00.01   1    17     55
  901 Terminal     1.0%  0:00.53   3    99    172
  885 cupsd        0.0%  0:00.02   2    30     35
  882 Adobe Phot   1.3%  0:31.55  11   139   1132
  877 mdworker     0.0%  0:00.16   3    67     32
  608 mdworker     0.0%  0:00.75   4    55     54
  597 natd         0.0%  0:01.61   1     8     25
  417 launchd      0.0%  0:00.15   3    24     24
  261 launchd      0.0%  0:00.21   3    24     24
  221 installdb    0.0%  0:00.10   1    34     24
  207 usbmuxd      0.0%  0:00.01   2    21     26
  206 iTunesHelp   0.0%  0:00.08   2    53     52
  195 Finder       0.0%  0:14.45   9   194    347
  194 SystemUISe   0.1%  0:03.92   8   220    318
  193 Dock         0.0%  0:01.90   3   121    279
  192 ATSServer    0.0%  0:00.06   2    91    154
  191 pboard       0.0%  0:00.00   1    15     23
  188 UserEventA   0.0%  0:00.29   2   129     83
  187 Spotlight    0.0%  0:07.84   6   113    275
  183 AirPort Ba   0.0%  0:00.35   3    80    127
  181 Little Sni   0.0%  0:00.37   2    88    135
  176 launchd      0.0%  0:00.44   3   139     24
  172 coreaudiod   0.0%  0:00.23   2   117     61
  149 pvsnatd      0.0%  0:00.41   3    26     28
  135 qmasterd     0.0%  0:00.03   2    24     47
  132 llipd        0.0%  0:01.03   1     8     1
```

PID	Process Name	User	CP	Thr	RSIZE	VSIZE	Kind
0	kernel_task	root	2.4	63	136.59 MB	1.10 GB	Intel
882	Photoshop	mac	1.4	11	108.00 MB	1.14 GB	Intel
924	Activity Monitor	mac	1.2	5	11.69 MB	986.53 MB	Intel
925	pmTool	root	1.2	1	1.26 MB	595.68 MB	Intel
69	WindowServer	_window	0.4	5	27.55 MB	928.18 MB	Intel
194	SystemUIServer	mac	0.2	8	9.54 MB	930.22 MB	Intel
132	llipd	root	0.1	1	224.00 KB	585.59 MB	Intel
14	configd	root	0.0	3	2.02 MB	587.24 MB	Intel
417	launchd	root	0.0	3	460.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel
261	launchd	securit	0.0	3	460.00 KB	585.74 MB	Intel

Free: 1.20 GB 🟩
Wired: 292.80 MB 🟥
Active: 447.52 MB 🟨
Inactive: 62.02 MB 🟦
Used : 802.34 MB
VM size: 43.93 GB
Page ins: 245.67 MB
Page outs: 0 Bytes
Swap used: 0 Bytes
2.00 GB

Third-party apps

There are some great free programs that put a graphical front end onto complex *Terminal* commands, making them easier and safer. *OnyX* can tweak and maintain your system. Its cleaning section is useful as it lets you clear out caches, logs and other clutter that may be slowing down your system. Under its **Automation** tab you will find a series of system-level tasks like optimising the system. You can also reset the LaunchServices Database, which re-associates files with their creator apps, and reset the Spotlight Index, forcing OS X to re-index all the data on your Mac.

Disk Utility can erase, partition and repair drives, but there are more powerful products. ProSoft's (**www.prosoft.com**) *Drive Genius* and *Data Rescue* help you defragment, repartition, analyse and repair drives, and recover corrupted or deleted data respectively. *DiskWarrior* (**www.alsoft.com**) is often able to recover seemingly dead hard drives.

PMU reset

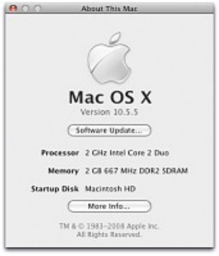
If a Mac is acting up for reasons that are not entirely clear, try resetting the power management unit, or PMU. This 'clears out' any troublesome settings and forces the Mac to start up from fresh. The exact technique varies between models and details for your specific Mac can be found on Apple's support website. When resetting a PMU, a Mac should always be turned off, left to cool and have all cables and batteries detached. For towers there is usually a small button on the logic board which is accessed by taking down the side and sometimes removing fans. On a Mac mini, you do it by plugging in the power cord whilst holding the power button down. On some laptops you need to shut down and disconnect all power and batteries, holding the power button for five seconds then rebooting with power reconnected. Other laptops have an actual reset button, accessed by removing the keyboard or base.

> "With Terminal you can access and modify all sorts of parameters; if used incorrectly it can mess up your system"

Network issues

If you are having networking problems, a reboot will often force a Mac to look again at what network interfaces are connected. Sometimes, an Ethernet cable may not be recognised, and even going into System Preferences > Network and configuring it may not help. A log out or restart almost always fixes this. If a problem persists, reset the PRAM. If your AirPort connection isn't picked up, try switching AirPort off and on again, which forces a re-scan. Make sure you know the password for any protected networks you're trying to join. A weak AirPort signal may be the result of thick walls or too great a distance from the base station, in which case a booster antenna or a second, relay base station can help. If you have several Macs but some are not showing up under the **Network** or **Shared Places** tabs in *Finder*, go to System Preferences > Sharing on the relevant Macs and make sure that **Personal File Sharing** is switched on. ●

QUICK TIP



Version 10.5.5
Processor 2 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
Memory 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM
Startup Disk Macintosh HD
TM & © 1983-2008 Apple Inc.
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Speeding things up

A slow system is usually the result of a full hard drive and/or insufficient RAM, so these should be your first ports of call when diagnosing sluggishness. Also consider the age of the Mac and the speed of its CPU.

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Our *iLife* tutorials always prove very popular, so we've gone a bit *iLife*-crazy this issue with guides for *iPhoto*, *iMovie* and *iDVD*, plus some excellent information for *iTunes* users.

The loose theme this issue is in taking your skills a little further, so we have a great tutorial on customising *iPhoto's* options to help you work smarter, plus we take you through some advanced editing techniques in *iMovie*.

As well as some great productivity tips – including Craig Grannell's illuminating masterclass on the **Services** menu, and Cliff Joseph's handy tutorial on creating your own keyboard shortcuts – we're also turning the spotlight on *iTunes*. Not only do we have a techy but approachable guide to using AppleScripts to do more in *iTunes*, but we also look at online stores that offer DRM-free alternatives to Apple's own *iTunes* Store; I'm a big fan of 7digital, personally!

Turbo-charge *iPhoto* **p42**

Advanced *iMovie* editing **p44**

Alternatives to the iTunes Store **p60**

How to…

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

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Next issue

Things return to something closer to normal next issue, with the balance being less weighted solely towards *iLife* apps. We show you how to use the **Instant Alpha feature** in *Pages* (and the other *iWork* suite apps), improve on *Photoshop's* **Dodge** and **Burn** tools, and – a real cracker this one – expose all the great features in Leopard's excellent *Preview* app.

Use *Pages*' Instant Alpha

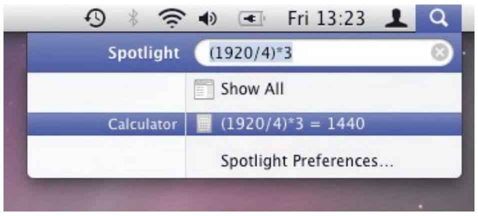
Dodge & Burn in *Photoshop*

Get *Preview* to work for you!

Did you know?

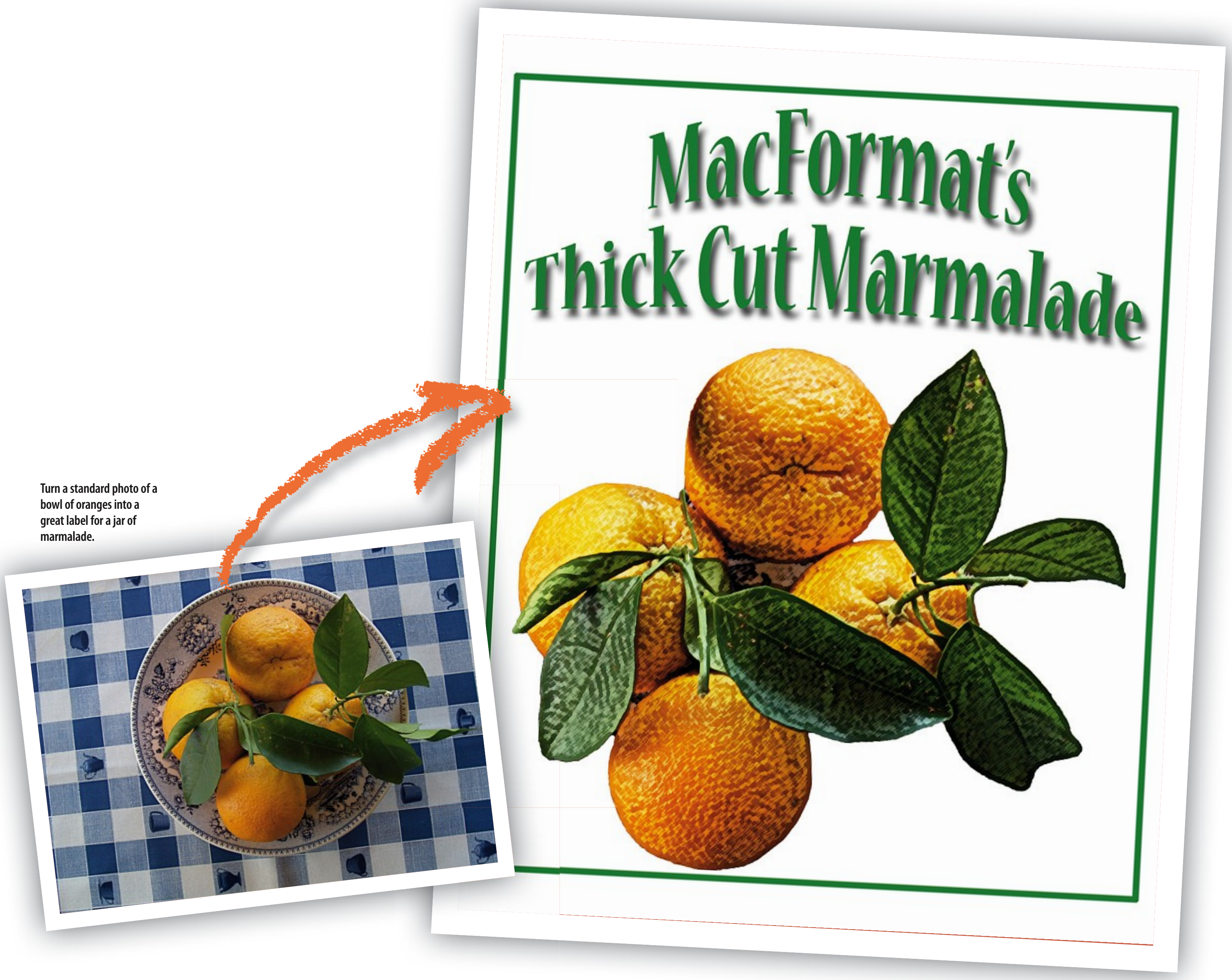
Do quick calculations in the Spotlight window

How often have you scrambled about on your desk looking for a calculator, or waited impatiently for the *Calc* app or *Dashboard* widget to launch, just to do a quick bit of 'mental' arithmetic? Well remember that you can do basic maths right in the Spotlight search bar, using standard operators such as / for divide and * for multiply. By default, you can trigger the Spotlight search field with ⌘+[Spacebar], so your hands don't even have to leave the keyboard. ●



Spotlight (1920/4)*3

Calculator (1920/4)*3 = 1440



Turn a standard photo of a bowl of oranges into a great label for a jar of marmalade.

Create stunning labels

Adding a colourful label to a product is easy with Photoshop Elements and a simple picture

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A photo to work with
- Adobe *Photoshop Elements 6* (£58, **www.adobe.com/uk**)
- 25 minutes of your time

Okay, so it does perhaps sound a teeny bit strange having a *Photoshop Elements* project that involves you making your own marmalade, but please bear with us. Times are hard, and if you have to cut back on birthday gifts then consider giving something homemade. Everyone will love something you've created yourself as it shows you've put that little bit more time and effort into it.

Firstly, buy some Seville oranges during their brief time they're in season from January to February and set about making a batch of great-tasting marmalade. You can find some great marmalade recipes on the internet by simply Googling the words 'marmalade' and 'recipes'.

> "A smart label is so much more inviting than a scrawled piece of handwriting with a cheap old pen"

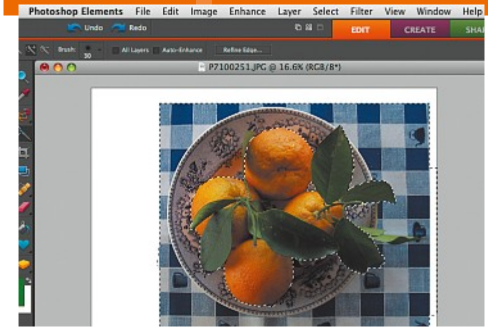
Once you've boiled up your sugary vat of oranges, transfer the cooled mixture into some clean jam jars before labelling them with a rather arty-looking label that you can create yourself using *Photoshop Elements 6*. A fancy label will give your homemade conserves a polished professional look and give you a chance to show off your *Photoshop* skills and your culinary prowess.

In this tutorial we're using a photo of some oranges (nice ones with the leaves still on). We will cut out the oranges using *Elements'* **Quick Selection** tool and then turn them into a coloured pencil sketch before applying some warped text so they're ready to print on an inkjet printer.

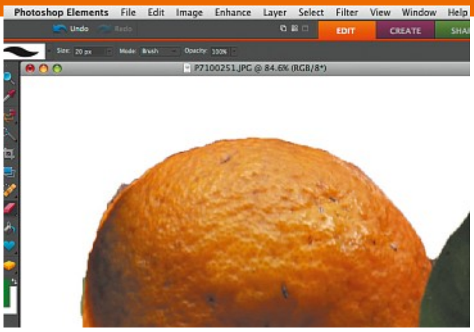
Obviously, if you don't like marmalade you can adapt this technique to almost any kind of jam, chutney or other preserve. A smart label is so much more inviting than a scrawled piece of handwriting with a cheap old pen.

Mark Sparrow

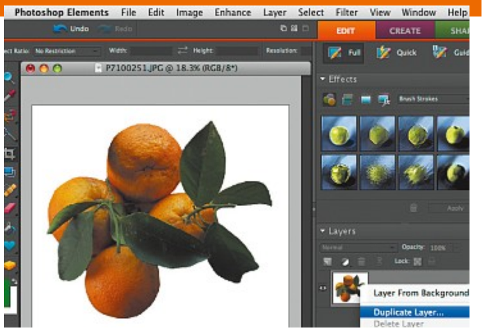
STEP BY STEP Creating a label from a simple photograph


Photoshop Elements File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
EDIT
CREATE
P7100251.JPG @ 16.6% (RGB/8*)

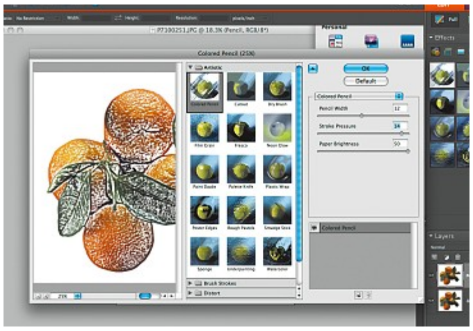
01 Open up your picture of a plate of oranges and you can set about cutting out the fruit using the **Quick Selection** tool. If you want to make life easier for yourself, photograph your oranges on a white tablecloth so that you can cut round them with more accuracy, although the **Quick Selection** tool is very good in almost any case.


Photoshop Elements File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
EDIT
CREATE
P7100251.JPG @ 84.6% (RGB/8*)

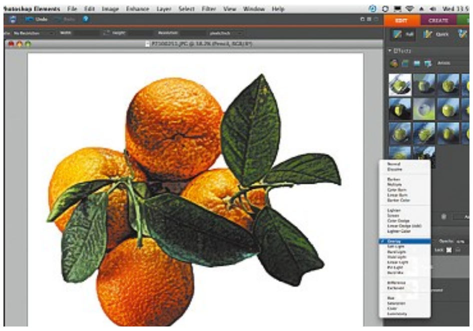
02 When you've finished dragging the **Quick Selection** tool over the parts of the picture you want to delete, press the [Delete] key. This will leave your oranges on a white background. There may be some bits to tidy up, so use the **Eraser** tool to go around the rough edges and tidy things up a bit. It won't take long.


Photoshop Elements File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
EDIT
CREATE
P7100251.JPG @ 18.3% (RGB/8*)
Effects
Layers
Layer From Background
Duplicate Layer...
Delete Layer

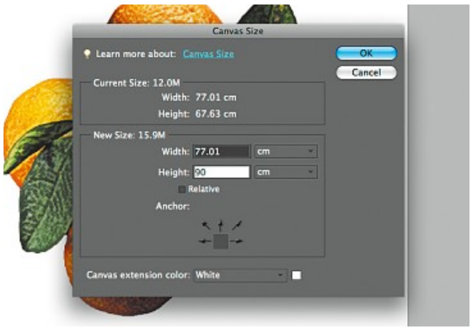
03 Now we're going to make a duplicate layer so that we can apply an artistic filter. We'll then pull back the opacity of this layer and change the **Layer Blending Mode** to make things look a little more arty. It's always good practice to work on a duplicate layer, especially if you're experimenting with new effects and filters.


Coloured Pencil
Artistic
OK
Default

04 We've selected the **Coloured Pencil** filter which you'll find in Filter > Artistic. You'll need to play around with the controls a little to get that sketchy look. Turn the **Paper Brightness** control to full so that the background is completely white. Alter the other two sliders to get the hand-drawn effect that you think looks right for your label.

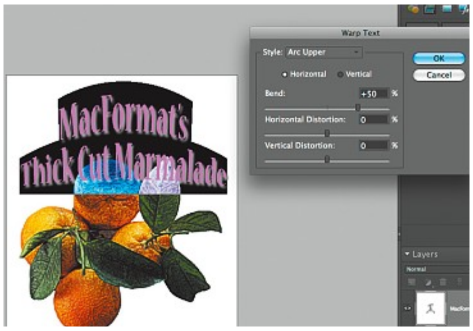


05 We've altered the **Brush Detail**, **Shadow Intensity** and **Texture** sliders from the default settings. The actual settings you use will vary depending on your original file, so be prepared to try different settings. This filter is processor intensive so you may need a bit of patience while it renders the effect.


Canvas Size
Learn more about: Canvas Size
OK
Cancel
Anchor:

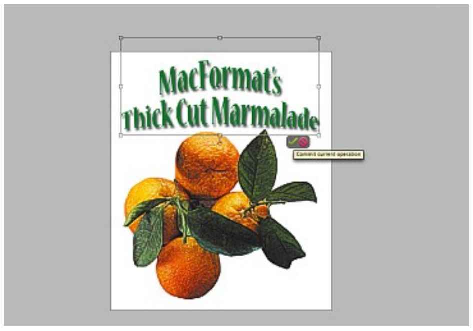
Current Size: 12.0M
Width: 77.01 cm
Height: 67.63 cm
New Size: 15.9M
Width: 77.01 cm
Height: 90 cm
☐ Relative
Canvas extension color: White

06 To get an arty effect, set a blending mode of the coloured pencil layer to **Overlay**. This creates a really nice hand-coloured effect and tones down the slightly wishy-washy whiteness of the **Coloured Pencil** filter. Pull back the opacity of the layer a bit, too, until you get an effect similar to the one in the screen shot.


MacFormat's
Thick Cut Marmalade
Warp Text
OK
Cancel
Layers
Normal

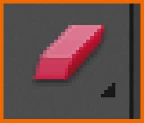
Style: Arc Upper
● Horizontal ○ Vertical
Bend: +50 %
Horizontal Distortion: 0 %
Vertical Distortion: 0 %

07 Your next job is to extend the canvas so that you can put some writing on your label. Do this by going to Image > Resize. Select the **Text** tool and type in your label text. We've added a warping effect here to create a jam label effect before finally drawing a line around the text and the fruit using the **Stroke** command.


MacFormat's
Thick Cut Marmalade
Commit current operation

08 You can reposition the type to fit the space of your label. Extend the canvas width wise if you need to – it all depends on the effect you want to create. To draw a border around the label, use the **Rectangular Marquee** to draw a box and then go to Edit > Stroke (Outline) Selection and select a colour and thickness to suit. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



The Eraser is a great tool for tidying up edges of cutouts. Take time to set the size and the hardness of the Eraser tool for a more natural effect.

EXPERT TIP

Play around with *Photoshop Elements'* Artistic filters as the effect can vary considerably. Don't be afraid of using more than one filter to build the art effect up – you can always undo them.

Close Palette Bin

Improve iPhoto

We show you how to customise iPhoto to make it work better for you

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor or better
- Apple *iPhoto '07* or '08 (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- Images to work with

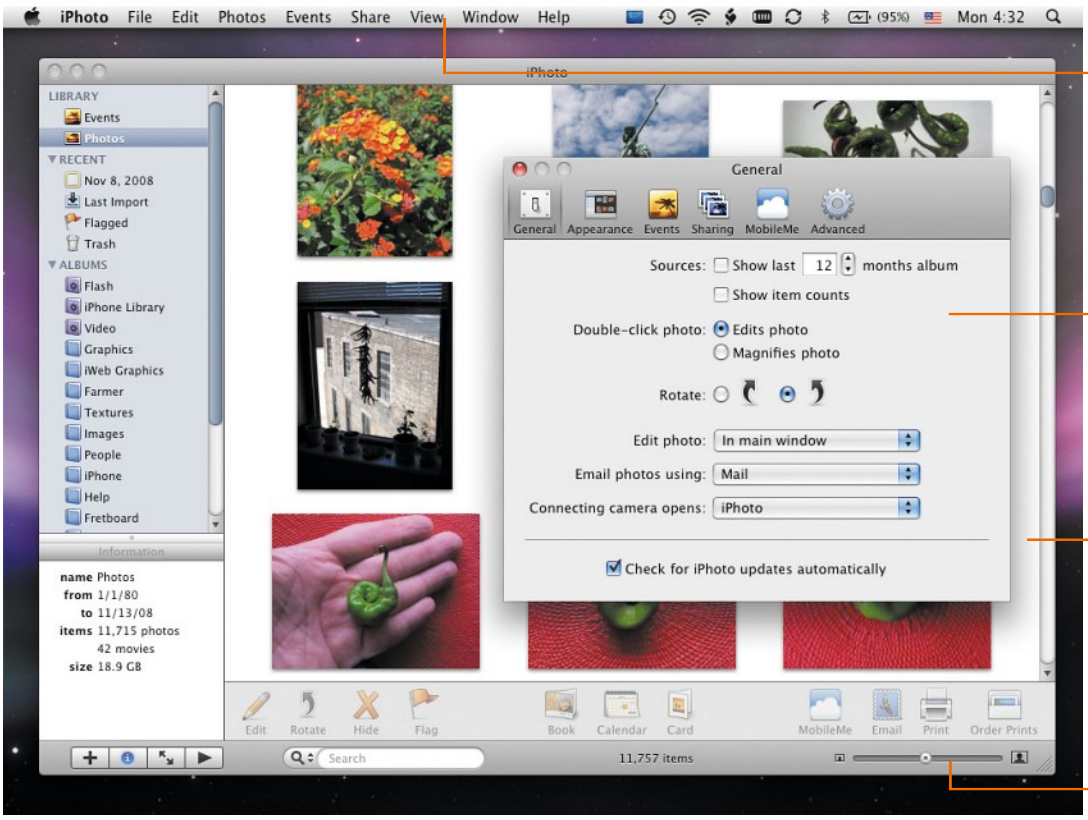
With all the time we spend working with *iPhoto*, it's easy to take for granted that *iPhoto* just looks and acts like *iPhoto*. The truth is, the **Preferences** pane gives you control to change the look and function much more to your personal needs.

Changing the look may not seem a big deal, but *iPhoto* is designed for complete visual function with little dependence on text. If your thumbnails are on the default white background, you're overworking your eyes. You can give your albums a grey background that's both easy on the eye and visually neutral for more accurate quick exposure checks and colour reference of your images; Events uses a grey background by default. You can also add edge shadows that make your thumbnails subtly stand out and easier for your eye to gravitate to.

An often overlooked superpower of *iPhoto* is its ability to work and play nice with other apps. If you prefer *iPhoto* as your library but want to edit your images in an app like *GraphicConverter*, *iPhoto* can be set to open the image seamlessly in the third-party app. Your edited image will also be saved back into *iPhoto*, so there's no headache of dealing with different copies of the image in different folders. A very cool feature is the ability to store your images on an external drive or on Time Capsule and still make them work with *iPhoto*'s library, as if they're natively stored on your Mac.

Kevin J Wolfe

TOP FEATURES | Customise iPhoto


iPhoto
File
Edit
Photos
Events
Share
View
Window
Help
(95%)
Mon 4:32
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
RECENT
Nov 8, 2008
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
ALBUMS
Flash
iPhone Library
Video
Graphics
iWeb Graphics
Farmer
Textures
Images
People
iPhone
Help
Fretboard
Information
General
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced
Edit
Rotate
Hide
Flag
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Email
Print
Order Prints
Search
11,757 items

name Photos
from 1/1/80
to 11/13/08
items 11,715 photos
42 movies
size 18.9 GB

Sources: ☐ Show last 12 months album
☐ Show item counts
Double-click photo: ● Edits photo ○ Magnifies photo
Rotate: ○ ●
Edit photo: In main window
Email photos using: Mail
Connecting camera opens: iPhoto
☑ Check for iPhoto updates automatically

View menu

The **View** menu in *iPhoto* gives you various modding options, including adding titles and adding ratings to your photos.

Preferences pane

The **Preferences** pane allows you to change the look of *iPhoto*, but most importantly it allows you to change key functions.

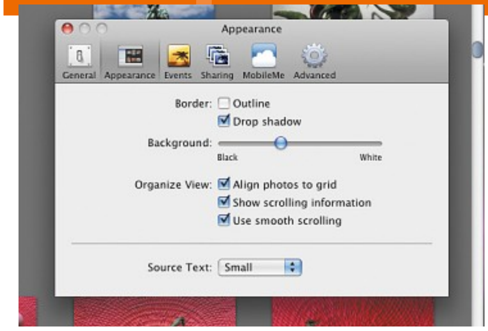
Quick access

If you need to bring up the **Preferences** pane quickly to make some changes, simply press the ⌘+[,] key combination.

Zoom slider

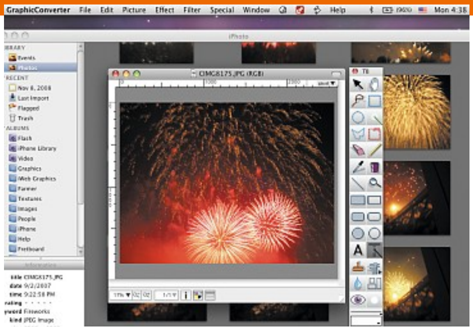
Don't overlook the **Zoom** slider along the bottom of the screen to change how many thumbnails show on your screen.

STEP BY STEP Change the way iPhoto works

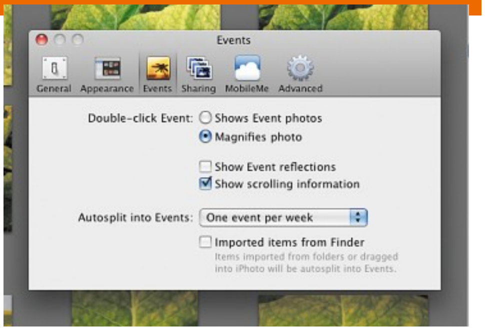

Appearance
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

Border: ☐ Outline
☑ Drop shadow
Background: Black — White
Organize View: ☑ Align photos to grid
☑ Show scrolling information
☑ Use smooth scrolling
Source Text: Small

01 From the **iPhoto** menu, choose **Preferences**. Click on the **Appearance** icon and drag the **Background** slider just left of centre. This grey background will make your thumbnails easy for the eye to isolate. To further make them stand out, check the **Drop Shadow** box. Checking **Align Photos to Grid** will make them look more ordered.

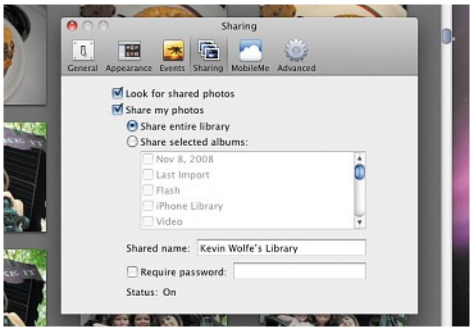

GraphicConverter
File
Edit
Picture
Effect
Filter
Special
Window
Help

02 Go back to iPhoto > Preferences, but this time choose the **General** icon. From the **Edit Photo** drop-down, choose **In Application**. Pick the app from the **Applications** folder. Now when you double-click an image in your *iPhoto* library it will open in the editing app. Most apps will save the image back into your *iPhoto* library.


Events
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

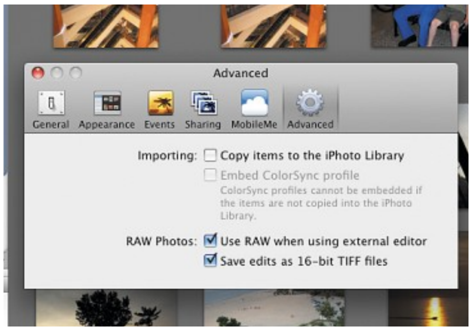
Double-click Event: ○ Shows Event photos
● Magnifies photo
☐ Show Event reflections
☑ Show scrolling information
Autosplit into Events: One event per week
☐ Imported items from Finder
Items imported from folders or dragged into iPhoto will be autosplit into Events.

03 Back in **Preferences**, click on the **Events** icon. There are many control options here; the **Autosplit Into Events** drop-down is really useful. Set this to **One Event Per Day** to limit events to contain a birthday party or wedding; reset to **One Event Per Week** for containing longer events, like holidays.


Sharing
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

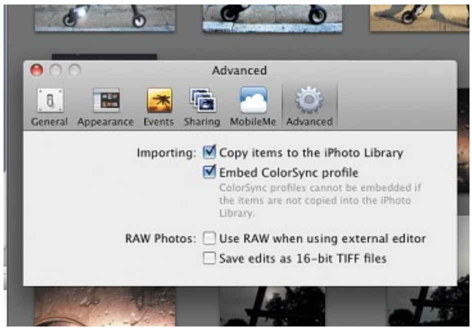
☑ Look for shared photos
☑ Share my photos
● Share entire library
○ Share selected albums:
☐ Nov 8, 2008
☐ Last Import
☐ Flash
☐ iPhone Library
☐ Video
Shared name: Kevin Wolfe's Library
☐ Require password:
Status: On

04 You can share *iPhoto* libraries with everyone in the house. From iPhoto > Preferences, click on the **Sharing** icon. Check the **Look for Shared Photos** box to find libraries on other Macs. Check **Share My Photos** to let others see your library. You can share selected albums or set a password to restrict who can see your photos.


Advanced
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

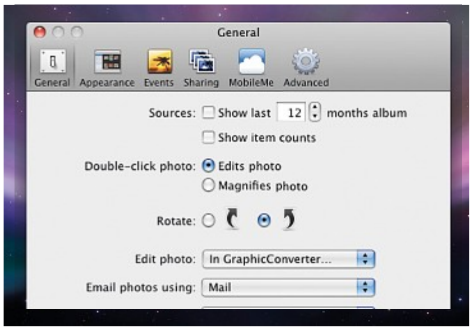
Importing: ☐ Copy items to the iPhoto Library
☐ Embed ColorSync profile
ColorSync profiles cannot be embedded if the items are not copied into the iPhoto Library.
RAW Photos: ☑ Use RAW when using external editor
☑ Save edits as 16-bit TIFF files

05 *iPhoto* is very RAW-friendly. From iPhoto > Preferences, click on the **Advanced** icon. Check **Use RAW Images With an External Editor** to always export RAW originals and not edited copies. *iPhoto* saves your RAW photo edits as a JPEG. If you'd rather have higher-quality TIFF files, check **Save Edits as 16-Bit TIFF Files**.


Advanced
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

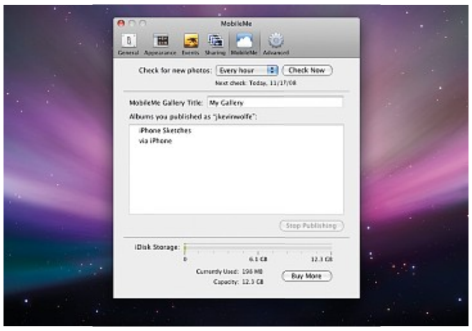
Importing: ☑ Copy items to the iPhoto Library
☑ Embed ColorSync profile
ColorSync profiles cannot be embedded if the items are not copied into the iPhoto Library.
RAW Photos: ☐ Use RAW when using external editor
☐ Save edits as 16-bit TIFF files

06 Have too many images for your hard drive? Go to iPhoto > Preferences > Advanced and uncheck **Copy Items to the iPhoto Library**. Now any originals you import will appear normally in your *iPhoto* library, but actually live on the wired or wireless disk they're imported from. *iPhoto* saves a local copy if you make edits.


General
General
Appearance
Events
Sharing
MobileMe
Advanced

Sources: ☐ Show last 12 months album
☐ Show item counts
Double-click photo: ● Edits photo
○ Magnifies photo
Rotate: ○ ↺ ● ↻
Edit photo: In GraphicConverter...
Email photos using: Mail

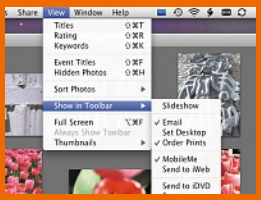
07 Tired of your iPhone or other device opening *iPhoto* every time you plug it in, even when there are no photos to download? From iPhoto > Preferences, click on the **General** icon. Set the **Connecting Camera Opens** drop-down to **No Application**. Open *iPhoto* manually when you need to download images.


MobileMe
Stop Publishing
Buy More
Check Now

Check for new photos: Every hour
Next check: Today, 11/17/08
MobileMe Gallery Title: My Gallery
Albums you published as "kevinwolfe":
iPhone Sketches via iPhone
iDisk Storage: 6.1 GB 12.3 GB
Currently Used: 198 MB
Capacity: 12.3 GB

08 Others can post to your MobileMe gallery and *iPhoto* can download these images back to your library. Click the gallery in your *iPhoto* **Library** list, click **Settings** and make sure **Uploading of Photos By Web Browser** is checked. From iPhoto > Preferences, click the **MobileMe** icon. Set the **Check For New Photos** drop-down to **Every Hour**. ●

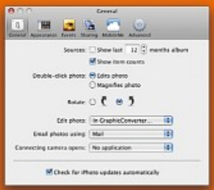
TOOL SCHOOL


Share
View
Window
Help
Titles
Rating
Keywords
Event Titles
Hidden Photos
Sort Photos
Show in Toolbar
Full Screen
Always Show Toolbar
Thumbnails
Slideshow
Email
Set Desktop
Order Prints
MobileMe
Send to iWeb
Send to iDVD

The View menu along the top menu bar offers you options to determine what tools you want to show in your toolbar. Just click on an option to enable/disable it.

EXPERT TIP

From the General tab in iPhoto > Preferences you can check the Show Item Counts box. This shows you how many images are in each album.


General
Check for iPhoto updates automatically

Make better edits in iMovie

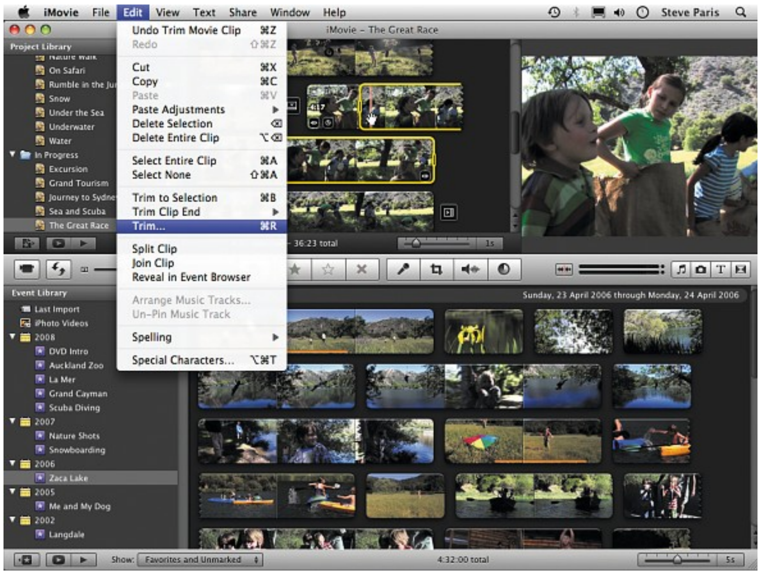
Last issue we looked at basic editing techniques; this issue we're taking it a bit further

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iMovie 7.1.4* (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- Video footage taken with your camcorder or still camera
- 25 minutes of your time

When creating a short film with *iMovie*, or any other editing application for that matter, most of your time is spent choosing clips, trimming them and adding them to your project, which is why it's important for an application to provide tools that are easy to use and understand.

Back in *iMovie '06*, editing was very simple: you dragged clips from the thumbnail section and added them to your timeline in a manner very similar to moving a file from one folder to another in *Finder*: once it's in its new place, the file is removed from the original location.


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Steve Paris
Project Library
iMovie – The Great Race
Undo Trim Movie Clip ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection ⌫
Delete Entire Clip ⌥⌫
Select Entire Clip ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Trim… ⌘R
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks…
Un-Pin Music Track
Spelling
Special Characters… ⌥⌘T
On Safari
Rumble in the Jungle
Snow
Under the Sea
Underwater
Water
In Progress
Excursion
Grand Tourism
Journey to Sydney
Sea and Scuba
The Great Race
36:23 total
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2008
DVD Intro
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2006
Zaca Lake
2005
Me and My Dog
2002
Langdale
Sunday, 23 April 2006 through Monday, 24 April 2006
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
4:32:00 total

iMovie's more advanced editing techniques can save you time while working with your movie and give you great results easily.

> "This tutorial will show you more powerful techniques to fit in with your way of working in iMovie"

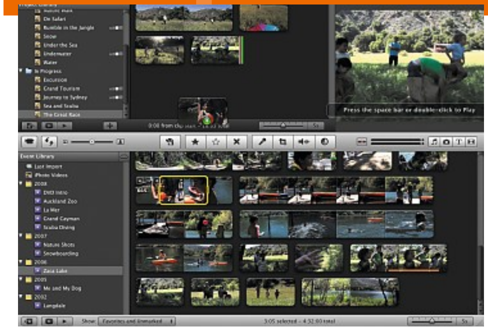
We've seen that *iMovie '08* does things somewhat differently: adding a clip to a project doesn't remove it from the event it came from. Rather, it's like creating an alias: the clip stays where it is and the project links to it, just like an icon in the Dock links to a specific folder or application. You can remove it from the Dock and the original will not be affected.

The methods we demonstrated in the tutorial last issue will certainly help you edit your film. However, they can become a little tedious at times. For instance, clicking on the clip's **Fine Tune** button only allows you to trim it by a maximum of one second. If you need to remove more footage, you would have to perform the same action multiple times, which can be tiresome.

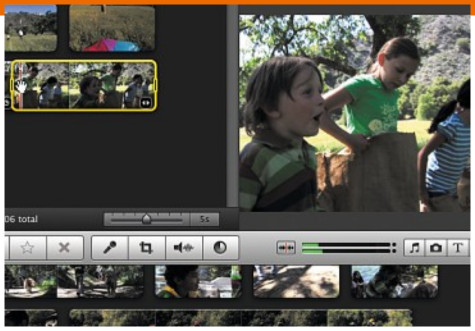
Thankfully, there are other ways to alter your footage in *iMovie '08,* and the tutorial over these two pages will show you a few which you may find more powerful than the ones we've already highlighted. You will then know all the techniques available to you and you will be free to choose whichever ones fit your way of working.

Steve Paris

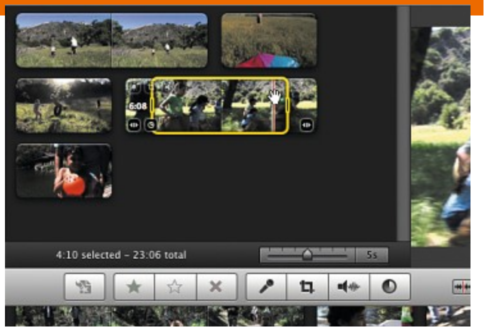
STEP BY STEP Perform more advanced editing in iMovie


Press the space bar or double-click to Play

01 Choose one of your existing projects or create a new one by either going to File > New Project or by clicking on the big + button, bottom-right of the **Project Library** section. Choose an **Aspect Ratio** of your choice, select portions of a few clips from the **Source Video** section (bottom-right) and drag them to your project.

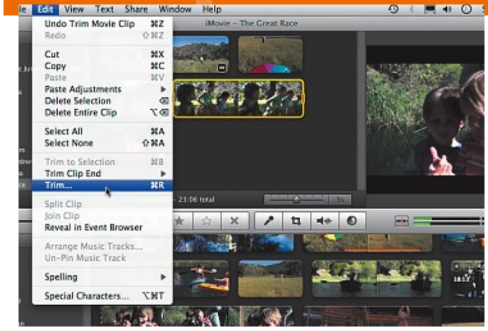


02 Click on one of your project's clips to select it. Move the cursor so that it is near the start of that clip. Hold down the ⌥ key and press the left arrow repeatedly. It looks as though the selected area is shrinking, but in fact the clip itself is lengthening (this is further illustrated by the fact that its displayed length is increasing).

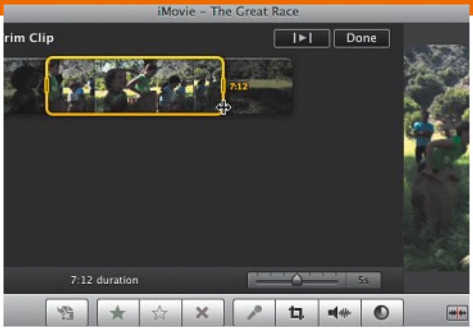

6:08
4:10 selected – 23:06 total
5s

03 To shorten the clip, hit the right arrow instead while holding down the ⌥ key. Move the cursor so it is near the end of the clip and use the same keyboard shortcuts as shown above to alter that edit point. Since either the start or end of the clip is modified depending on where the cursor is, make sure you move it to the right place.

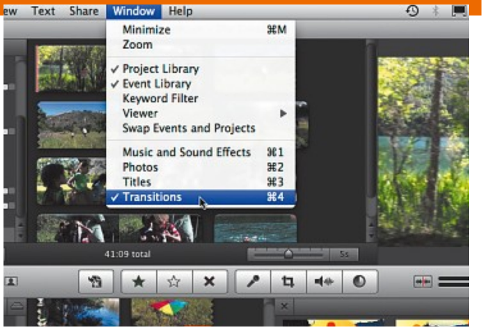
STEP BY STEP Perform more advanced editing in iMovie… continued


Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Undo Trim Movie Clip ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Trim… ⌘R
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks…
Un-Pin Music Track
Spelling
Special Characters… ⌥⌘T
iMovie – The Great Race
21:06 total

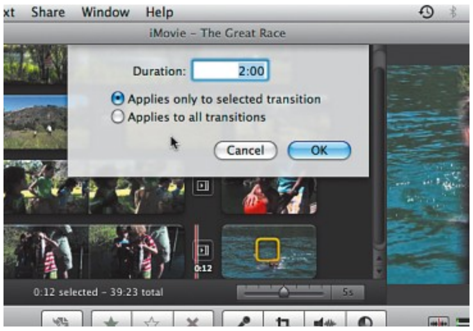
04 The method described so far is perfect should you need to trim or extend a clip by a few frames, but can get a little confusing if you need to make larger modifications. Instead, go to Edit > Trim: this reveals the entire footage from which the clip is taken. Everything currently in the project has a grey highlight around it.


iMovie – The Great Race
rim Clip
Done
7:12
7:12 duration

05 Nothing else was selected when the clip was added to the project. However, unlike *iMovie '06*, that footage is still available and can be inserted. You can increase or decrease the selection by dragging the selected section's end handles in a similar manner to when you selected the original portion. When finished, click **Done**.

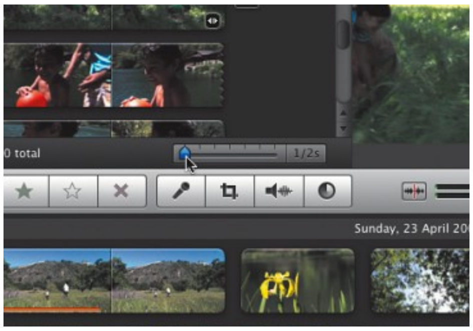

Text
Share
Window
Help
Minimize ⌘M
Zoom
✓ Project Library
✓ Event Library
Keyword Filter
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects ⌘1
Photos ⌘2
Titles ⌘3
✓ Transitions ⌘4
41:09 total

06 Adding transitions between clips is a simple matter of dragging and dropping. First, go to Window > Transitions (or use the keyboard shortcut ⌘+[4]). Choose the one you would like to use (mousing over it will give you a quick preview of the effect), click on it and drag it to your project in between two clips of your choice.

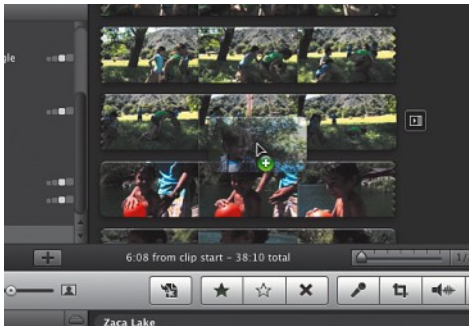

Share
Window
Help
iMovie – The Great Race
Cancel
OK
0:12 selected – 39:23 total

Duration: 2:00
● Applies only to selected transition
○ Applies to all transitions

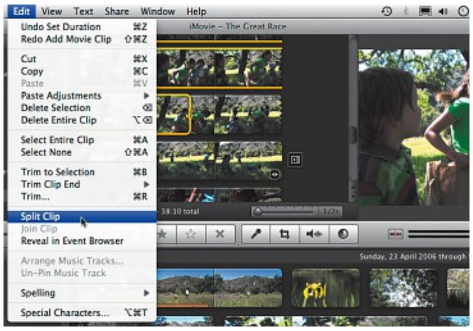
07 Mouse over it in your project to reveal its length. If that duration doesn't suit your needs, you can alter it by selecting it and going to Edit > Set Duration (or use ⌘+[R]). You can then change its length and decide whether this change is to be applied to all transitions currently in your project or just to the selected one.


total
1/2s
Sunday, 23 April 20

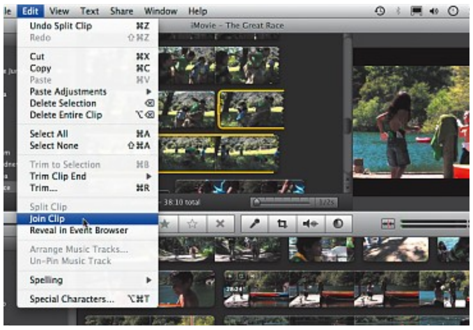
08 You don't have to add clips one after another; you can insert them in any order or even over an existing clip, cutting it in half and inserting the new footage in between. One way to help you pinpoint the exact place you wish to cut is by dragging the slider at the bottom-right of the **Projects** section all the way to the left.


6:08 from clip start – 38:10 total
Zaca Lake

09 This gives you one thumbnail every half a second, helping you be more precise. As you hover the new clip over the existing one, pay close attention to where the playhead (the red vertical line) is: as soon as you let go of the mouse, the existing clip will be cut there. You can be even more precise by using the next method.

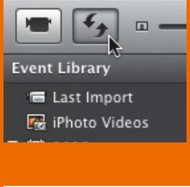

Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Undo Set Duration ⌘Z
Redo Add Movie Clip ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select Entire Clip ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Trim… ⌘R
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks…
Un-Pin Music Track
Spelling
Special Characters… ⌥⌘T
iMovie – The Great Race
38:10 total
Sunday, 23 April 2006 through

10 Click and drag from roughly where you'd like to insert the new footage to the clip's end. You can fine-tune that selection by dragging the yellow handle. When you are ready, go to Edit > Split Clip to turn your clip into two. You can now easily insert new footage in between these two at that exact location every time.


Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Undo Split Clip ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Trim… ⌘R
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks…
Un-Pin Music Track
Spelling
Special Characters… ⌥⌘T
iMovie – The Great Race
38:10 total

11 If you've made a mistake and cut at the wrong place, you can join up the two pieces at any time. You can recognise split clips since their cut ends are straight, not curved. Select one of the two pieces (not both) and go to Edit > Join Clips. They must, of course, be next to each other for this process to work. ●

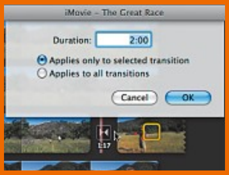
TOOL SCHOOL


Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos

If you need more room to see your project, you can swap the Source Video and Project sections by clicking on the swirly arrows button next to the video camera icon.

EXPERT TIP

Sometimes the transition length doesn't match the duration you've set. That's because there isn't enough footage beyond the clip's edit point to match the desired length.


iMovie – The Great Race
Cancel
OK
1:17

Duration: 2:00
● Applies only to selected transition
○ Applies to all transitions

Create slideshows in iDVD

Harness the power of iDVD's Slideshow tool to turn your photos into a story

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iDVD 7.0.2* (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- A collection of photos and short films
- 30 minutes of your time

When you think of a DVD, the image that most likely comes to mind is of a film. Although some believe the 'V' stands for 'Video', it actually stands for 'Versatile', which is exactly what the DVD format is. You can use it to store music and even photos, or any other kind of data. Anything you can create or manage with the *iLife* suite of applications can be used as media when creating a DVD designed to be played on a DVD player.

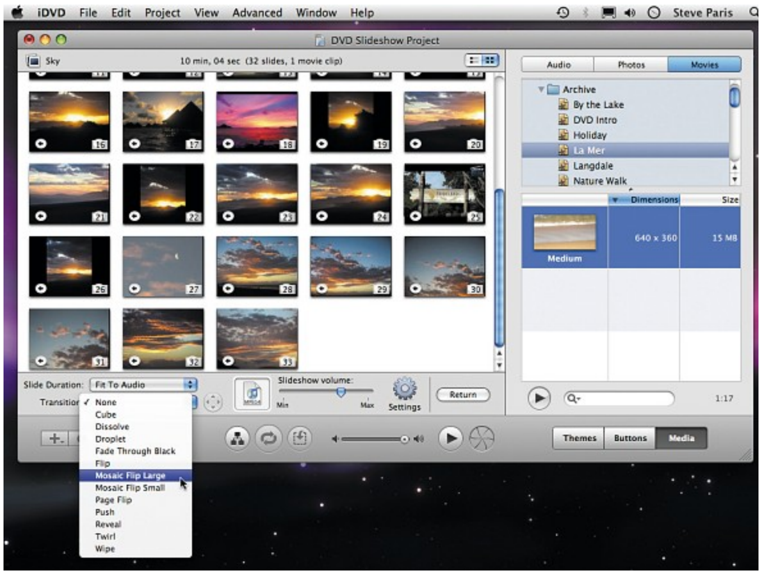
Do you remember those old slide projectors that were used to show photos on a screen? You would spend hours getting a slideshow ready for a big family event, but somehow something always went wrong: one slide ended up being upside down or reversed, or the mechanism would jam, forcing an unscheduled stop to your trip down memory lane.

iDVD improves on this idea and eliminates the need for specialised equipment: all you need is a DVD player and a TV to enjoy the fruits of your labour. And best of all, barring a damaged player or TV set, your slideshow should play uninterrupted. All the hard work of finding and sorting pictures can be done days or even weeks in advance. In fact, you don't even have to be in the room for others to enjoy your slideshow.

iLife '08 comes with *iDVD 7* and offers a host of features which help make your slideshows more enjoyable. You could, for instance, add a musical backdrop to your photos or even insert short films in between still images. Over the next two pages we will show you how to turn a DVD into an interactive slideshow and make you glad Kodak discontinued the slide projector in 2004: it's been superseded by *iDVD*.

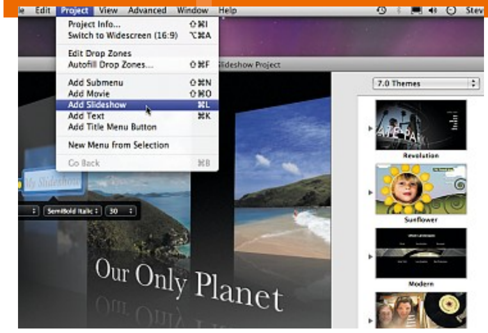
Steve Paris

> "iDVD 7 offers a host of features to make your slideshows more enjoyable, like adding a musical backdrop"

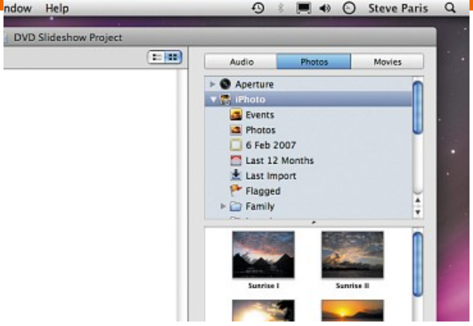

iDVD File Edit Project View Advanced Window Help
Steve Paris
DVD Slideshow Project
Sky
10 min, 04 sec (32 slides, 1 movie clip)
Audio
Photos
Movies
Archive
By the Lake
DVD Intro
Holiday
La Mer
Langdale
Nature Walk
Dimensions
Size
Medium
640 x 360
15 MB
Slide Duration:
Fit To Audio
Transition
None
Cube
Dissolve
Droplet
Fade Through Black
Flip
Mosaic Flip Large
Mosaic Flip Small
Page Flip
Push
Reveal
Twirl
Wipe
Slideshow volume:
Min
Max
Settings
Return
1:17
Themes
Buttons
Media

A DVD does more than just hold a movie. You can also create a stunning photo slideshow in *iDVD* and burn it to disc to share.

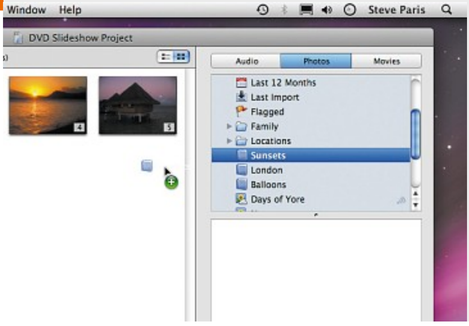
STEP BY STEP Turn your photos into an interactive slideshow


Project Info...
Switch to Widescreen (16:9)
Edit Drop Zones
Autofill Drop Zones...
Add Submenu
Add Movie
Add Slideshow
Add Text
Add Title Menu Button
New Menu from Selection
Go Back
7.0 Themes
Revolution
Sunflower
Modern
Our Only Planet

01 Launch *iDVD* and choose a theme for your new project. Add a slideshow by going to Project > Add Slideshow (⌘+[L]). An item named **My Slideshow** appears on your screen. To rename it, make sure it is selected then click on it. You can even alter its font and size as was described in a previous tutorial.

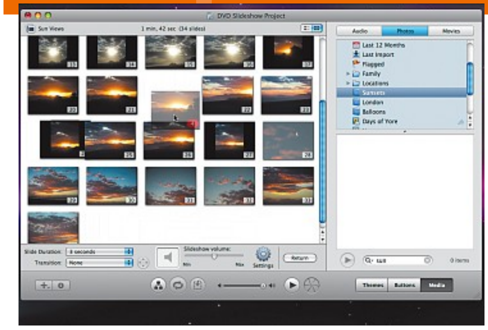

DVD Slideshow Project
Audio
Photos
Movies
Aperture
iPhoto
Events
Photos
6 Feb 2007
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Family
Sunrise I
Sunrise II

02 Double-click on the slideshow menu to open it. To add images, click on the **Photos** tab on the right. *iDVD* gives you access to your *Aperture*, *iPhoto* and *Photo Booth* libraries from here. You can browse through albums and events, or you can use the search field at the bottom if you're looking for something specific.

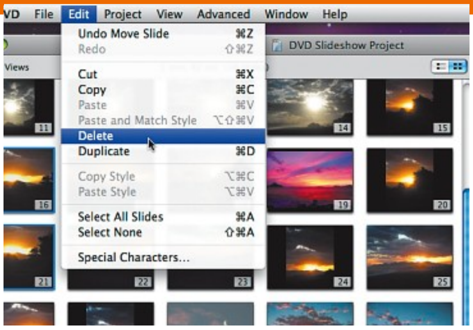

DVD Slideshow Project
Audio
Photos
Movies
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Family
Locations
Sunsets
London
Balloons
Days of Yore

03 To add a photo to your slideshow, select it from the right panel and drag it onto the interface's main, and currently empty, area. You can also add multiple images by clicking on one and ⌘-clicking on the others. Alternatively, you can add an entire album or event instead (or any number of them by ⌘-clicking them).

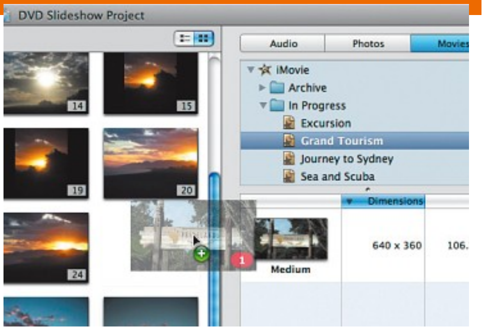
STEP BY STEP Turn your photos into an interactive slideshow… continued



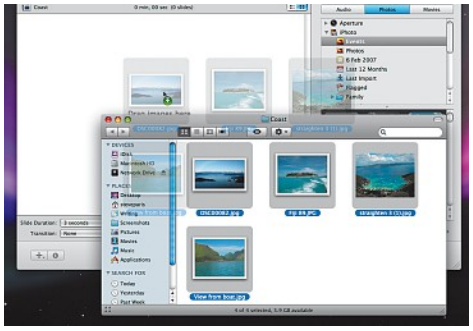
04 You don't have to stick to the order in which your photos were added. You are at complete liberty to reorder them to suit your needs. As with step 3, you don't need to move your stills one at a time, you can ⌘-click to select multiple images. Then, drag them to a more appropriate location.


Edit
Undo Move Slide ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste and Match Style ⌥⇧⌘V
Delete
Duplicate ⌘D
Copy Style ⌥⌘C
Paste Style ⌥⌘V
Select All Slides ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Special Characters…
DVD Slideshow Project

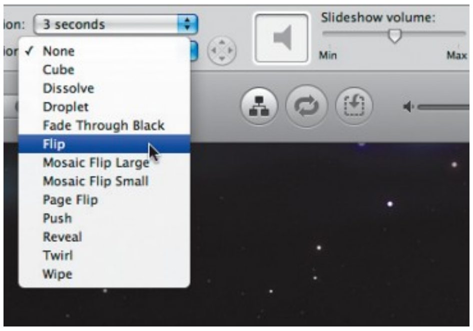
05 To remove an image, you need to select it and go to Edit > Delete or, more simply, choose the photos you don't want and hit the [Delete] key. If the photos are contiguous, rather than ⌘-clicking all of them, you can click on the first and ⇧-click on the last to select them all.


DVD Slideshow Project
Audio
Photos
Movies
iMovie
Archive
In Progress
Excursion
Grand Tourism
Journey to Sydney
Sea and Scuba
Dimensions
640 x 360
Medium

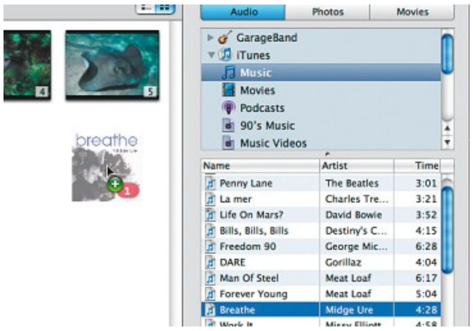
06 You can also add movies from *iMovie, iPhoto, iTunes* or your account's **Movies** folder, all of which can be accessed by clicking on the **Movies** tab. In order to see your *iMovie* projects, they need to have had a preview of them created. This can only be done in *iMovie '08* by going to Share > Media Browser.



07 Don't worry if you don't like to be bound by Apple's libraries and don't use *iPhoto* or other *iLife* cataloguing applications: you can still make full use of the slideshow feature: locate the files you'd like to include using *Finder* and drag them onto *iDVD*'s interface. As long as it can read the files, *iDVD* will accept them wherever they are stored.

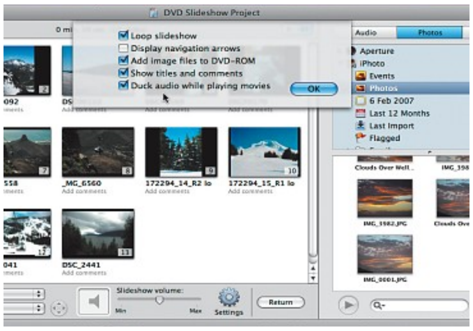

3 seconds
None
Cube
Dissolve
Droplet
Fade Through Black
Flip
Mosaic Flip Large
Mosaic Flip Small
Page Flip
Push
Reveal
Twirl
Wipe
Slideshow volume:
Min
Max

08 Once all your stills and videos have been added to the slideshow, it's time to set how long each image will be displayed for. You can do this using the **Slide Duration** pop-up menu (bottom-left). Beneath it is a **Transition** menu which you can use to set the transition you would like to use as the DVD moves from one image to another.


Audio
Photos
Movies
GarageBand
iTunes
Music
Movies
Podcasts
90's Music
Music Videos
breathe

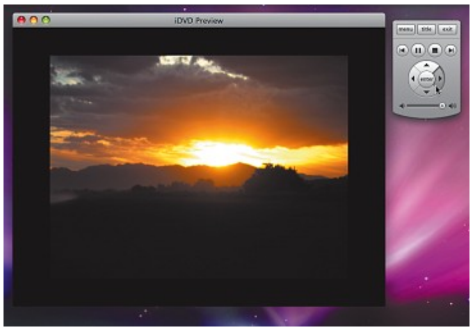
Name	Artist	Time
Penny Lane	The Beatles	3:01
La mer	Charles Tre…	3:21
Life On Mars?	David Bowie	3:52
Bills, Bills, Bills	Destiny's C…	4:15
Freedom 90	George Mic…	6:28
DARE	Gorillaz	4:04
Man Of Steel	Meat Loaf	6:17
Forever Young	Meat Loaf	5:04
Breathe	Midge Ure	4:28

09 To add music, select it either from the **Audio** tab or *Finder*. Just drag and drop it anywhere on the interface and *iDVD* will know what to do. To remove it, drag the file out of the audio well. When music is added, the slideshow's length is automatically altered to fit its duration. You can change that with the **Slide Duration** menu.


DVD Slideshow Project
OK
Audio
Photos
Slideshow volume:
Min
Max
Settings
Return

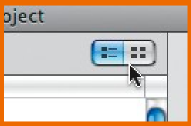
☑ Loop slideshow
☐ Display navigation arrows
☑ Add image files to DVD-ROM
☑ Show titles and comments
☑ Duck audio while playing movies

10 To the right of the audio well is a **Settings** cog wheel. Click on it. You can use it to add options like looping the slideshow or displaying titles and comments (which can be edited by clicking on them individually). Adding navigation arrows is only for display purposes: you will not be able to click on them to move the slideshow along.


iDVD Preview

11 You can preview your slideshow by clicking the **Play** button beneath the **Settings** cog. To skip to the next or previous image, click the right and left arrows on the remote control. Be aware that this will also move the music along since the slideshow is encoded as a movie: moving to the next photo is like moving to the next chapter of a film. ●

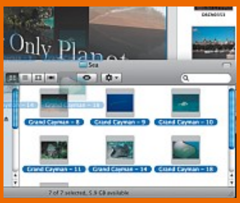
TOOL SCHOOL



At the top-right of the Slideshow interface are two buttons. These enable you to change the display between Icon view and List view.

EXPERT TIP

Dragging a series of images onto a DVD menu in *iDVD* will automatically generate a Slideshow link, saving you having to create the slideshow and then dragging the shots into it.



Use AppleScripts with iTunes

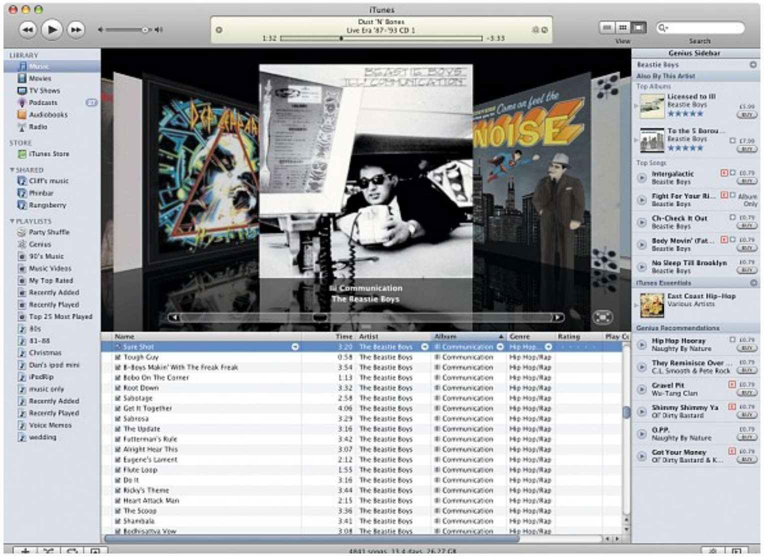
Discover how you can power up your version of iTunes with the use of pre-written AppleScripts

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iTunes* (preferably latest version, free, **www.apple.com/itunes**)
- 10 minutes to get started

Apple *iTunes* is a great application, and most people make do with the standard features available in the default version; however, 'great' is by no means perfect. The chances are that, at some point, you've become frustrated whilst trying to find some functionality that doesn't exist in *iTunes*, or thought of a cool feature it should include – but doesn't. Thanks to AppleScript (a scripting language devised by Apple) all is not lost, because with it you can add new controls and automation to many applications easily yourself, including the wonderful *iTunes*.

> "Thanks to AppleScript you can add controls and automation to applications yourself, including iTunes"


iTunes
Dust 'N' Bones
Live Era '87-'93 CD 1
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Audiobooks
Radio
STORE
iTunes Store
SHARED
PLAYLISTS
Genius Sidebar
Beastie Boys
Communication
The Beastie Boys

Creating simple scripts with AppleScript enables you to add new features to *iTunes*, including our **Make Bookmarkable** function here.

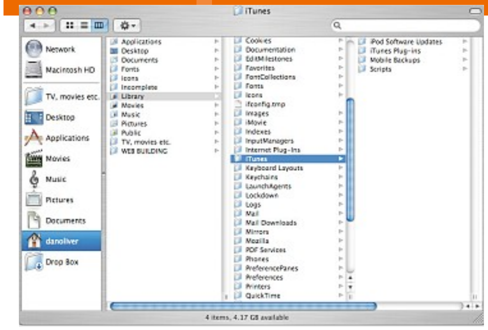
For most of us, writing bespoke AppleScripts isn't something we'd tackle with much relish, and that's why we're thankful for people like Doug Adams. Since 2001, he, and the community that has built up around his website, Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes (**http://dougscripts.com**), has provided *iTunes* users with hundreds of AppleScripts, which enable you to raise *iTunes'* functionality to a whole new level. (At the time of writing there are 446 scripts available, so if there's something you want *iTunes* to do, which hasn't been included in the app thus far, take a look at Doug's site.)

For the main body of this tutorial we're going to show you how to add your first script, called *Make Bookmarkable. Make Bookmarkable* enables you to convert AAC tracks to the audiobook M4B format, which – as well as making them bookmarkable, so they resume from where you left off last time you listened – will also add selected files to your **Audiobooks** library, making them easy to access. This is a great script for anyone who has audiobooks that weren't purchased via *iTunes* or Audible.

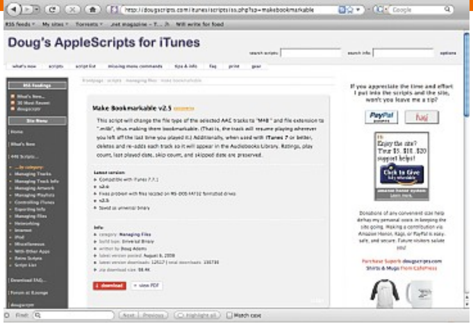
But that's not all. As well as taking you through your first script installation, we're also going to reveal our selection of the best *iTunes* AppleScripts for 2009!

Dan Oliver

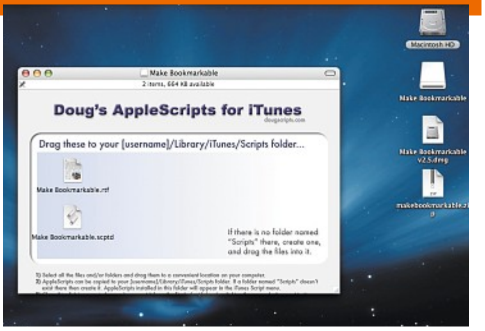
STEP BY STEP Creating and installing iTunes scripts


iTunes
Network
Macintosh HD
Desktop
Applications
Movies
Music
Pictures
Documents
danoliver
Drop Box
Library
iTunes
iPod Software Updates
iTunes Plug-ins
Mobile Backups
Scripts
4 items, 4.17 GB available

01 Before you even think about installing a new script, you need to make sure that you have a **Scripts** folder set up on your system. Go to Home Folder > Library > iTunes and if there isn't a folder within the **iTunes** directory called **Scripts**, create one. This folder is where you will need to place all the scripts you add to *iTunes*.


Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes
Make Bookmarkable v2.3
Download

02 Now we've set up our **Scripts** folder, it's time to pay a visit to Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes at **http://dougscripts.com**. At the top of the page, type **"make bookmarkable"** (including the quotes) into the search window. Select the red **Download** button, and a ZIP file will download. Once the download is complete, double-click the ZIP file.

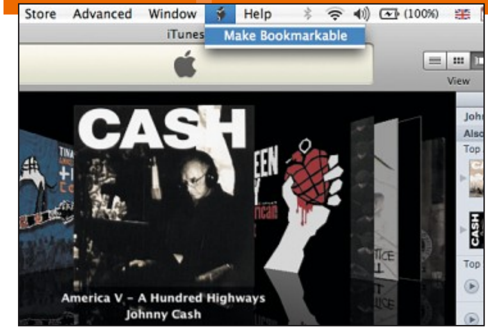

Macintosh HD
Make Bookmarkable
2 items, 664 KB available
Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes
dougscripts.com
Make Bookmarkable.rtf
Make Bookmarkable.scptd

Drag these to your [username]/Library/iTunes/Scripts folder...

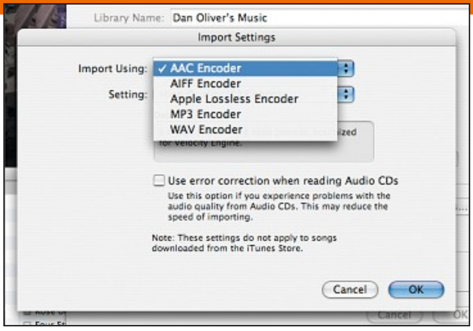
If there is no folder named "Scripts" there, create one, and drag the files into it.

03 A disk image will now appear in the same location as your ZIP file, double-click it to start the installation process. Select **Agree**, and a window will open, containing two files. Drag both of these files into the **Scripts** folder that we created in part 1, and then open *iTunes* on your Mac. Notice anything different?

STEP BY STEP Creating and installing iTunes scripts… continued


Store
Advanced
Window
Help
iTunes
Make Bookmarkable
View
CASH
America V – A Hundred Highways
Johnny Cash

04 Okay, so it's pretty subtle, but if you look in the **iTunes** menu, you'll now see a little **Script** icon at the top of the screen. Select this icon and a drop-down will appear with the option to **Make Bookmarkable**. We've now confirmed that our script is successfully installed, but we're not ready to start just yet.


Library Name: Dan Oliver's Music

Import Settings

Import Using: ✓ AAC Encoder

AIFF Encoder
Apple Lossless Encoder
MP3 Encoder
WAV Encoder
Setting:

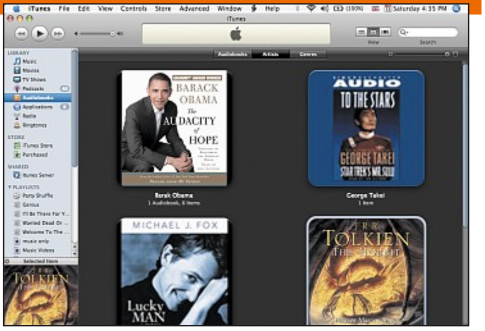
☐ Use error correction when reading Audio CDs

Use this option if you experience problems with the audio quality from Audio CDs. This may reduce the speed of importing.

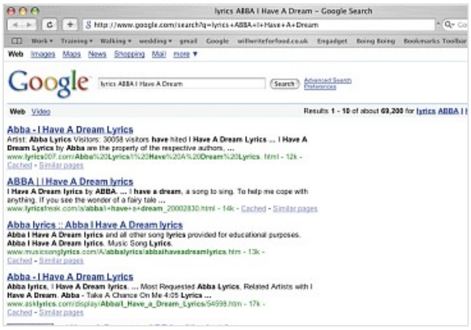
Note: These settings do not apply to songs downloaded from the iTunes Store.

Cancel
OK

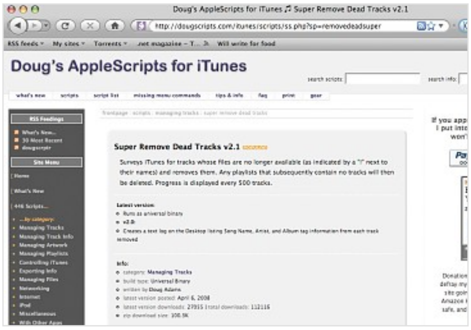
05 To convert a file to the audiobook M4B format and make it bookmarkable, it must first be an AAC file. To convert files from MP3 to AAC, go to iTunes > Preferences…, hit the **General** tab, select **Import Settings…**, and choose **AAC Encoder**. [Ctrl]+click any MP3 files in your library, and you'll now see the option to **Create AAC Version**.


Barack Obama
The Audacity of Hope
Audio
To the Stars
George Takei
Michael J. Fox
Lucky Man
Tolkien

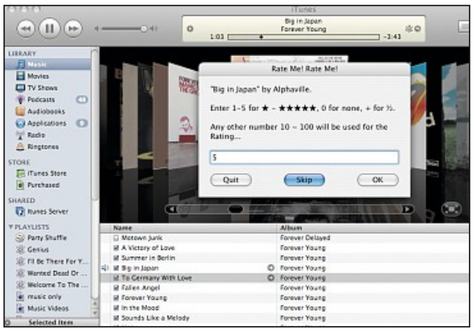
06 Now you need to find the file in your library that you want to convert. Select the file(s), and now click the **Scripts** icon, selecting **Make Bookmarkable**. Your file(s) will now be converted, and appear in the **Audiobooks** section of *iTunes* (in the left-hand pane). *iTunes* and your iPod will now treat this file as an audiobook.


Google
Web
Abba - I Have A Dream Lyrics
ABBA | I Have A Dream lyrics
Abba lyrics :: Abba I Have A Dream lyrics
Abba - I Have A Dream Lyrics

07 Now we're going to run through a few more scripts you may like. *Google Lyric Search*, which can be found by searching for **"google lyric"**, is a handy script that uses the name and artist from a selected track in your library, and automatically performs a lyric search via Google (*Safari* is the preferred browsers for this script).


Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes
Super Remove Dead Tracks v2.1

08 If you've spent any amount of time adding and removing tracks in *iTunes*, you'll be familiar with the little exclamation mark that appears next to tracks listed in your library, that no longer reside on your system. To get rid of these 'dead' tracks, you can use a script called *Super Remove Dead Tracks*. Just search for **"dead tracks"**.


Rate Me! Rate Me!

"Big in Japan" by Alphaville.

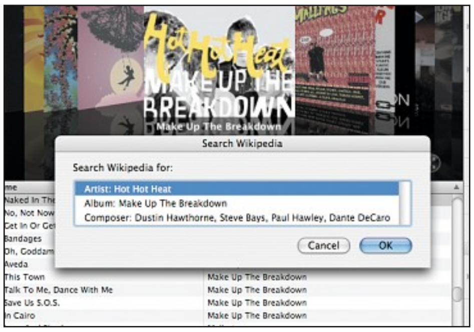
Enter 1-5 for ★ - ★★★★★, 0 for none, + for ½.

Any other number 10 ~ 100 will be used for the Rating...

5

Quit
Skip
OK

09 This script is aimed at the majority of people, who never get round to rating songs. The *Rate Me! Rate Me!* script opens a nag window every time you play a song that hasn't been rated, and prompts you to give it a score. A great idea, or one of the most annoying scripts available? You decide!

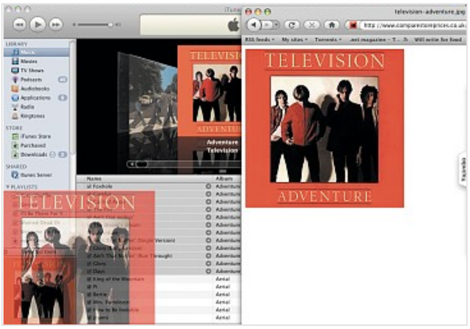

Search Wikipedia

Search Wikipedia for:

Artist: Hot Hot Heat
Album: Make Up The Breakdown
Composer: Dustin Hawthorne, Steve Bays, Paul Hawley, Dante DeCaro

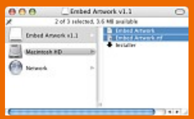
Cancel
OK
Make Up The Breakdown

10 Here at *MacFormat* we're a complete bunch of Wikipedia addicts, so this *Search Wikipedia* script makes us very happy. Once installed, select **Search Wikipedia** from the drop-down, choose whether you want to use a track that's playing or selected, then decide whether you want to search using the **Album**, **Artist** or **Composer** tag.


TELEVISION
ADVENTURE

11 The *Find Album Artwork* script can find obscure album artwork. Once installed, select the tracks of the album in question, choose **Find Album Artwork With Google** from the **Scripts** drop-down, find a decent sized cover in Google and drag the cover into the **Drag Album Artwork Here** box in *iTunes*. ●

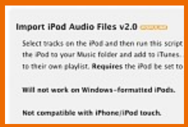
TOOL SCHOOL


Embed Artwork v1.1
Installer

When you download some scripts you'll see a little **Installer** icon in the folder once they're extracted. Dragging the scripts onto this icon will automatically move them to your **Scripts** folder.

EXPERT TIP

As Apple is responsible for AppleScript, if it's not entirely happy with the scripts people write, it will change later versions of *iTunes* and iPod software to stop certain scripts working.


Import iPod Audio Files v2.0

Select tracks on the iPod and then run this script
the iPod to your Music folder and add to iTunes.
to their own playlist. **Requires** the iPod be set to

Will not work on Windows-formatted iPods.

Not compatible with iPhone/iPod touch.

Softline

Premier Macintosh Distributor

Available from :

www.amazon.co.uk

www.apple.com/ukstore

www.atcomputers.co.uk

www.play.com

www.ghc.co.uk

Solutions Inc - Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
0870 3898610

Solutions Inc - Brighton
12-13 Brighton Pl
0870 3898610

Western Computer - Bristol
Temple Gate
01179 225 661

Western Computer - Cheltenham
Beechwood Shopping Ctr
01242 234700

Scotsys - Glasgow
164 Great Western Rd
0845 606 2641

Albion Computers - London
112 The Strand
0207 212 9090

Apple Store - Birmingham
West Bullring Shopping Ctr
0121 260 1900

Apple Store - London
235 Regent St
020 7153 9000

Apple Store - Manchester
Arndale Ctr
0161 216 4570

Cancom - Brighton
110 Queens Rd
01273 748 083

Solutions Inc - Brighton & Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
0870 3898610

Cancom - Cambridge
5 Clifton Ct
01223 247111

Scotsys - Edinburgh
95-97 Nicolson St
0845 606 2641

Square Group Ltd - London
78 New Oxford St
020 7692 9990

GBM - Manchester
One Piccadilly Gardens
0161 605 3838

Apple Store - Kent
Bluewater Shopping Ctr
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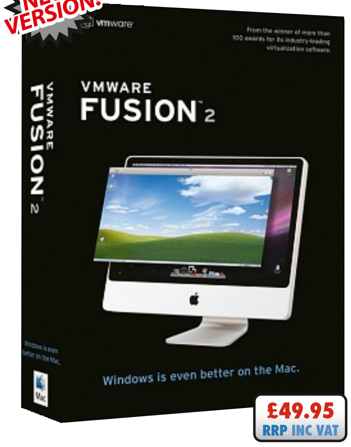
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By calibrating your monitor, you can be sure that the on-screen colours are true.

Show accurate colours

Calibrate your monitor, and you'll see things in a new light…

For those of us with older Macs, it's an all-too-familiar scenario: we spend hours lovingly retouching that cherished picture, only for the printed result to bear no resemblance to what we saw on-screen. This problem is often most pronounced in older iMacs with CRT displays, but it can happen with any Mac, with any kind of display, and at any point in its lifespan. Fortunately, Mac OS X allows you a relatively fine degree of control over your Mac's on-screen colour balance, and there are also third-party devices that'll do the hard work for you. Over the course of this tutorial, we'll show you how to use your Mac's hidden settings to put right those wishy-washy colours: then you really can make your printed photos match your memories, and your artwork match your imagination!

There are a number of reasons why what you see isn't always necessarily what you get – at least when it comes to printing accurate copies of photographs from your Mac. First, of course, there's age: if you have an older G3 iMac, for instance, its cathode ray tube (CRT) display will have had several years' wear and tear. But it's not only that, however: it's a little-known fact that until the G4 iMac (the one that looks like an anglepoise lamp) was introduced, all iMacs had internal electronics to convert the video signal from digital to analogue, to accommodate the monitor's VGA connector. Indeed, this arrangement was carried over into the eMac, which had a digital-analogue conversion circuit board for its entire lifespan. This analogue video board can, and frequently does, deteriorate to the extent that it affects the quality of the display.

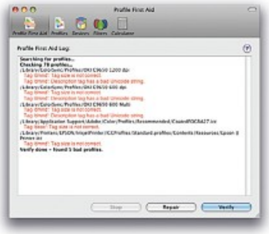
> "If you're going to be doing work that needs spot-on colours, make sure that your display is up to the job"

And then there's software: when you install a game, for instance, it will often reset your Mac's screen resolutions and colours almost before you realise it's happening. If this occurs a number of times, the on-screen colour balance is going to be way out before very long at all. We could go on, but we're sure you get the idea: if you're going to be doing work that needs spot-on colours, you need to make sure that your display is up to the job. ▶

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac running Mac OS X
- A scanner and printer (optional)
- Huey or Huey Pro (optional)

QUICK TIP



Profile First Aid

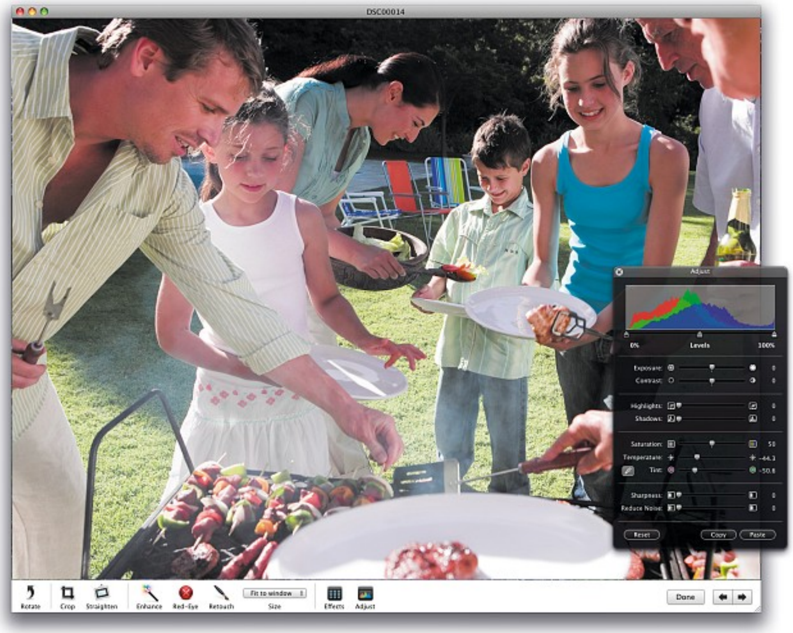
ICC profiles should conform to a specific format; if yours don't, they might not be as effective as they should be. Luckily, you can use *ColorSync Utility's Profile First Aid* to find out whether your profiles are in good health. Click **Verify** to check them; if *Profile First Aid* reports any errors, click **Repair**.

Fortunately, Mac OS X gives you all the tools you need to accomplish this: in our step-by-step guide, opposite, we show you how to calibrate your Mac's display using the options available in *System Preferences*. We'd suggest you follow this now, then come back to the following part of this tutorial.

Hardware calibration

If you've already followed our step-by-step guide, you'll have found that it can be quite difficult to get the colour balance settings exactly right. If you have some degree of colour-blindness – and even if you don't – it's a well-nigh impossible task to get it exactly right. Thankfully, there is a way to automate the process using a piece of hardware similar to the colorimeters used by professional designers and technicians to calibrate monitors: step forward the Pantone Huey.

The Huey comes in two variants: the standard version (around £65; see **http://tinyurl.com/5fqbv3** for details), and the Huey Pro (around £86; see **http://tinyurl.com/5z44yl** for details). Though they use the same hardware colorimeter, the software used with the Pro version allows you more flexibility in setting gamma and white points, and also lets you calibrate multiple monitors attached to the same Mac.



Exposure: 0
Contrast: 0
Highlights: 0
Shadows: 0
Saturation: 50
Temperature: -44.3
Tint: -50.8
Sharpness: 0
Reduce Noise: 0

With an accurately calibrated monitor, correcting an image with a colour cast is easier and more precise…

To use either version of the Huey, you install the software by dragging it onto your **Applications** folder, plug the hardware calibrator into a spare USB port, launch the software, and follow the on screen instructions. Once it's done, you can leave it plugged in, as it gives you the option of having the hardware monitor the ambient light around your Mac, and make adjustments to the screen brightness accordingly. Frankly, we find this a bit annoying, as it tends to dim or brighten the screen just as you are in the middle of a job. However, there's no denying that both the Huey and the Huey Pro make calibrating your screen a doddle.

Removing a colour cast

Whichever way you choose to calibrate your Mac's display, you'll find that it can have a dramatic effect on the quality of the images you produce, whether they're from a digital camera, or from scanned photographs or transparencies. In particular, removing a colour cast from an image using *iPhoto '08* will have much more accurate results now that you are able to choose a grey or white point accurately. To do this launch *iPhoto '08*. Before going any further, go to iPhoto > Preferences > General, and make sure that you have chosen to edit photos in a separate window (using the pop-up menu). In the *iPhoto* application window, click on the image you want to correct, and click the **Edit** button. From the toolbar at the bottom of the **Edit** window, click **Adjust**. Click the eyedropper icon next to the **Tint** slider; the icon should turn a lighter shade showing that it's been selected, and your cursor should turn into a +. Using the cursor, click on a part of the photograph that should either be white or a neutral grey, and the colour cast should disappear. It might take a couple of attempts to find a patch of the right colour. When you're satisfied with the result, click on **Done** and the **Edit** window and **Adjust** palette will close.

> "Whichever way you calibrate your display, it will have a dramatic effect on the quality of your images"

The Huey and the Huey Pro use the same hardware, but the Pro's software allows for more flexible settings.

SHOOT RAW FILES AND GET MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

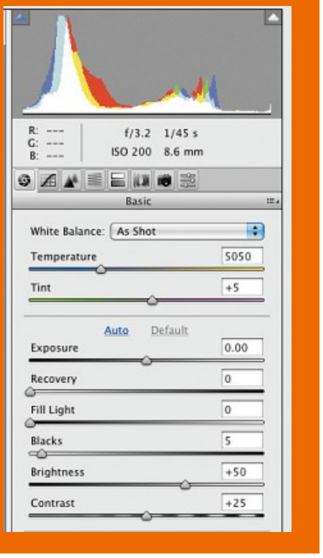
In the main part of this tutorial, we discussed applying colour profiles to hardware such as printers and scanners. However, there's another important piece of kit we haven't mentioned yet: the digital camera.

In the days of the film, photographers would have a range of coloured filters to apply to the camera lens to compensate for different lighting conditions: bright sunlight, overcast daylight, artificial lighting, and so on. Using filters, you could avoid having a colour cast on your finished photographs. By contrast, digital cameras – which use light-sensitive cells to record image information – have a setting called 'white balance' that achieves a similar result by very different, electronic means.

If your digital camera records images as TIFFs or JPEGs the white balance information becomes part of the image file, which is fine until you it needs changing, perhaps to compensate for the harsh light of a flash unit.

If your camera allows it you could set a custom white balance using nothing more than a sheet of white paper, but this isn't always possible in the heat of the moment. Instead – and again if your camera allows it – you should think about shooting in RAW format.

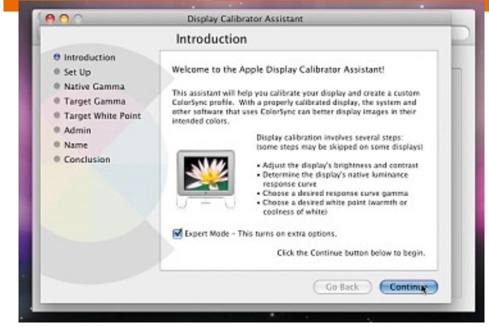
As the name implies, RAW files are the data taken straight from the camera's array of light sensitive cells, before they are encoded into any standard image file format (such as TIFF). Incidentally, each manufacturer has its own proprietary way of recording RAW data, with each also having its own filename extension – for instance, .nef for Nikon and .crw for Canon. Any resultant confusion is worth putting up with, as RAW files, among other benefits, allow you to apply white balance and exposure compensation, after the image is recorded, without destroying any data.



R: ---
G: ---
B: ---
f/3.2 1/45 s
ISO 200 8.6 mm
White Balance: As Shot
Temperature 5050
Tint +5
Exposure 0.00
Recovery 0
Fill Light 0
Blacks 5
Brightness +50
Contrast +25

Taking photos in RAW format has many advantages, such as enabling more flexibility when editing.

STEP BY STEP Calibrate your monitor using Mac OS X's Display Calibrator Assistant


Display Calibrator Assistant
Introduction
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
Go Back
Continue

Welcome to the Apple Display Calibrator Assistant!

This assistant will help you calibrate your display and create a custom ColorSync profile. With a properly calibrated display, the system and other software that uses ColorSync can better display images in their intended colors.

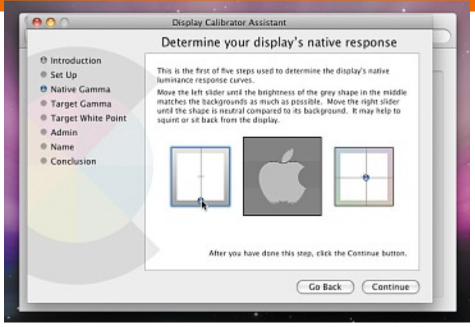
Display calibration involves several steps: (some steps may be skipped on some displays)

- Adjust the display's brightness and contrast
- Determine the display's native luminance response curve
- Choose a desired response curve gamma
- Choose a desired white point (warmth or coolness of white)

☑ Expert Mode – This turns on extra options.

Click the Continue button below to begin.

01 Start by launching *System Preferences*. Click **Displays**, then choose the **Color** tab. Now, click the **Calibrate…** button. Doing this will launch Mac OS X's *Display Calibrator Assistant*. Before proceeding, make sure there is a tick in the checkbox next to **Expert Mode**, and click the **Continue** button.

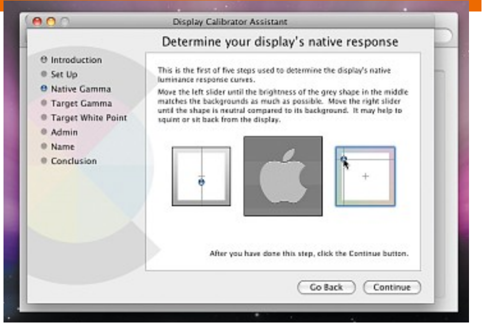

Display Calibrator Assistant
Determine your display's native response
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
Go Back
Continue

This is the first of five steps used to determine the display's native luminance response curves.

Move the left slider until the brightness of the grey shape in the middle matches the backgrounds as much as possible. Move the right slider until the shape is neutral compared to its background. It may help to squint or sit back from the display.

After you have done this step, click the Continue button.

02 The series of steps intend to determine the colour levels of your Mac's display. The idea is to use the sliders on either side of this panel to make the Apple merge into the background as much as possible. The left slider moves only about the vertical axis, and is used to make the logo darker or lighter, using the surrounding greyscale as a guide.

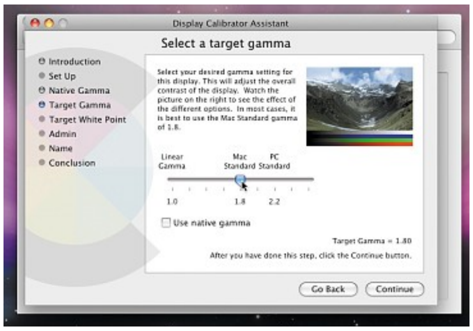

Display Calibrator Assistant
Determine your display's native response
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
Go Back
Continue

This is the first of five steps used to determine the display's native luminance response curves.

Move the left slider until the brightness of the grey shape in the middle matches the backgrounds as much as possible. Move the right slider until the shape is neutral compared to its background. It may help to squint or sit back from the display.

After you have done this step, click the Continue button.

03 The right slider moves in the horizontal and vertical axes and is used to adjust the hue. Again, use the colour scale around the slider as a guide. It takes a little practice to juggle the settings to make the Apple logo merge into the background but persevere. Once done, click **Continue**; there are five steps in all.


Display Calibrator Assistant
Select a target gamma
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
Linear Gamma
Mac Standard
PC Standard
1.0
1.8
2.2
Go Back
Continue

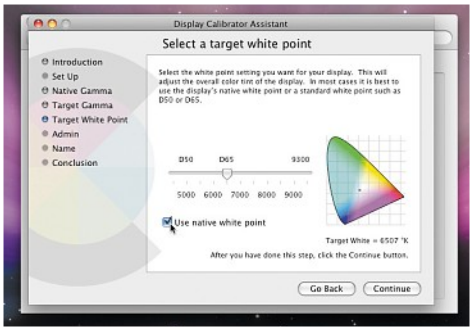
Select your desired gamma setting for this display. This will adjust the overall contrast of the display. Watch the picture on the right to see the effect of the different options. In most cases, it is best to use the Mac Standard gamma of 1.8.

☐ Use native gamma

Target Gamma = 1.80

After you have done this step, click the Continue button.

04 The target gamma is a setting that adjusts the amount of contrast displayed, as most images incorporate gamma encoding that is compensated for by this setting. If you're regularly sharing images with PC users, you might want to consider choosing the PC standard gamma of 2.2. For most of us, Mac standard gamma of 1.8 is fine.


Display Calibrator Assistant
Select a target white point
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
D50
D65
9300
5000
6000
7000
8000
9000
Go Back
Continue

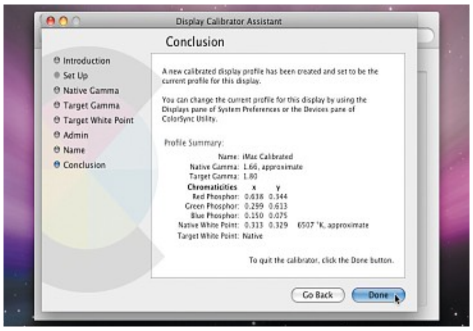
Select the white point setting you want for your display. This will adjust the overall color tint of the display. In most cases it is best to use the display's native white point or a standard white point such as D50 or D65.

☑ Use native white point

Target White = 6507 °K

After you have done this step, click the Continue button.

05 Setting the white point is similar to white balance on a digital camera. There are a number of so-called 'reference white points', depending on the type of illumination: D50 has a warm, yellow hue and is often used in graphic design, while D65 is equivalent to midday sunlight. It's best to choose the display's native white point.


Display Calibrator Assistant
Conclusion
Introduction
Set Up
Native Gamma
Target Gamma
Target White Point
Admin
Name
Conclusion
Go Back
Done

A new calibrated display profile has been created and set to be the current profile for this display.

You can change the current profile for this display by using the Displays pane of System Preferences or the Devices pane of ColorSync Utility.

Profile Summary:

Name: iMac Calibrated
Native Gamma: 1.66, approximate
Target Gamma: 1.80
Chromaticities x y
Red Phosphor: 0.638 0.344
Green Phosphor: 0.299 0.613
Blue Phosphor: 0.150 0.075
Native White Point: 0.313 0.329 6507 °K, approximate
Target White Point: Native

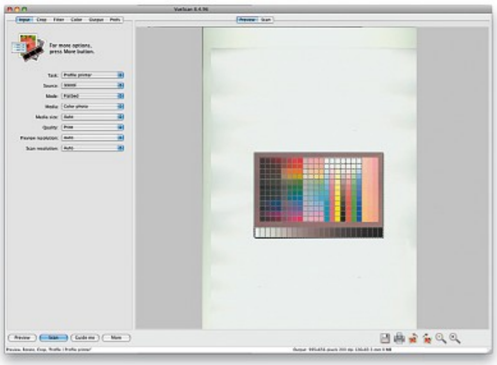
To quit the calibrator, click the Done button.

06 Keep clicking **Continue**, and you'll be asked to choose whether to allow other users to access the profile. Give the profile a name, and you're ready to save it. Above, you'll see the concluding panel of the assistant, summarising the settings; click **Done** and the profile will be added to those already in the System Preferences > Display. ●

Printers and scanners

Most of the time, you should find that a well-calibrated monitor allows you to produce consistently accurate colour prints. Sometimes, however, you might feel that there's something lacking in your printer's output. This can be for one or more reasons: the type of paper you're using, for instance, or even the age of your printer.

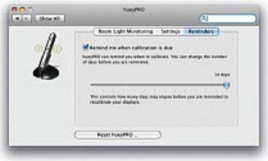
When you first install a scanner or printer, chances are that a file called an ICC Profile was installed with it. An ICC Profile is a document that contains a set of data describing the colour characteristics of such a device. The respective profiles of, say, an input device such as a scanner, and an output device such as a printer, are then bridged using an intermediate stage called a profile connection space (PCS). Obviously, the more accurate the ICC Profile, the better your peripherals will work together.



Halfway to creating a custom printer profile with *VueScan Professional*: positioning the cropping mask.

In the following section we'll create ICC Profiles for a printer and a scanner using *VueScan Professional Edition* (approximately £55, from **www.hamrick.com**). *VueScan* is an application that works with around 1,200 scanners of most makes, replacing the often poor driver software bundled with them, and allowing you to make tons of enhancements to the image being scanned, whether it's a photograph or a transparency. Incidentally, unless you need to make ICC Profiles, you could always go for the *Standard Edition* of *VueScan*, which costs around £25. ▶

QUICK TIP


Show All
Room Light Monitoring
Settings
Reminders
14 days

☑ Remind me when calibration is due

Calibration reminder

As we said earlier, it's a good idea to calibrate your monitor regularly to make sure it's performing at its peak. If you've used the Huey Pro, you can use its *System Preference* pane to set a reminder that it's time: go to System Preferences > HueyPRO. Click **Reminders**, then use the slider to choose an interval up to 14 days.

QUICK TIP

Switching settings

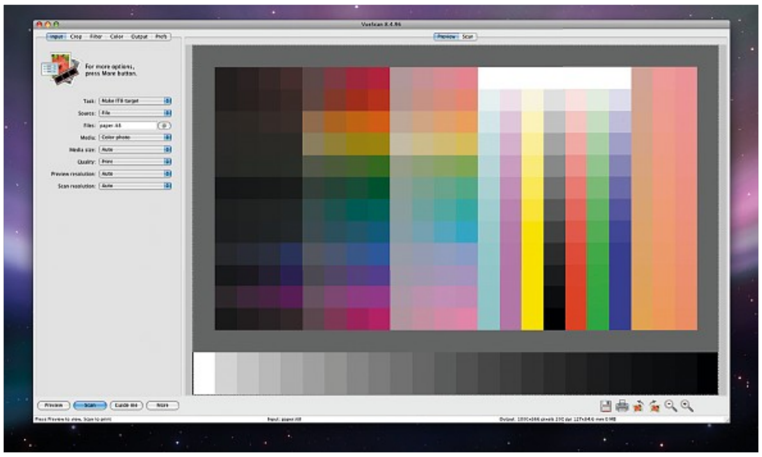
The Huey Pro's **Preference** pane allows you to switch between different colour temperature and gamma settings, depending on the task you're performing.

Profile a printer using VueScan Pro

Creating your own custom printer profile allows you to take into account factors that the manufacturer's version couldn't possibly anticipate: the precise make and type of paper you prefer, for instance. In fact, for absolute accuracy, you could create a profile for each type of paper you use – as long as you remembered to select the right one when you used your printer.

To create your custom profile launch **VueScan Professional**. Click on the **Input** tab and choose **Make IT8 target** from the **Task** pop-up. Click the **Scan** button, and your printer will produce the target. An IT8 target is simply a grid containing blocks of standard colours plus a greyscale (see screenshot, above right). They can be bought from graphic design suppliers, though the one produced by *VueScan* works just as effectively.

Place the target on the flatbed of your scanner with the long side of the target across the short side of the glass, so that the greyscale will appear at the bottom of the finished scan, and choose **Profile Printer** from the **Task** pop-up menu. Click **Preview**.



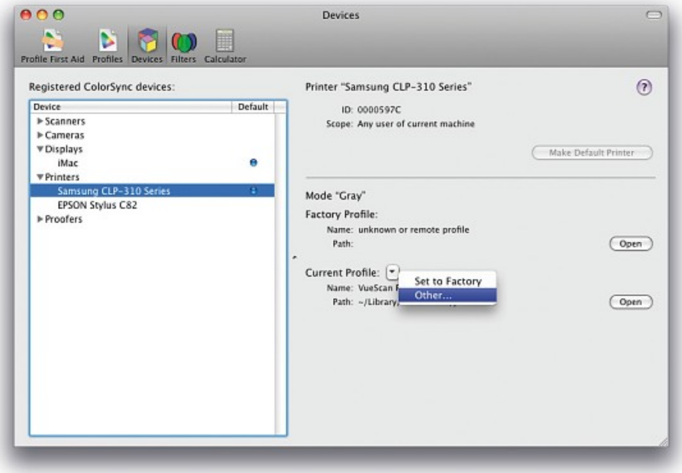
If you want to make sure your printer is accurately calibrated, *VueScan Professional* can help you to do it.

At this point, you should see the printed target appear in the preview window. Don't worry if it doesn't look exactly right; just make the adjustments you need and press **Preview** again. When you're happy with the positioning, drag the cropping mask that should have appeared so that it fits the target image in the preview window. Go to Profile > Profile Printer, and you'll shortly be notified that your custom profile has been created.

> "We'd suggest you calibrate your monitor regularly, particularly if you use your Mac for a range of tasks"

You can also use *VueScan* to profile your scanner: after printing the IT8 target and placing it on your scanner platen, choose **Profile Scanner** from the **Task** menu (in step 4 of the walkthrough on the previous page) and go to Profile > Profile Scanner in step 7).

VueScan stores the profiles it creates in ~/Library/Preferences. In the case of printers, the file will be called **printer.icc**. Normally, ICC profiles are stored in either /Library/ColorSync/Profiles/ or ~/Library/ColorSync/Profiles/ so you might want to move them.



Printer "Samsung CLP-310 Series"
ID: 0000597C
Scope: Any user of current machine
Mode "Gray"
Factory Profile:
Name: unknown or remote profile
Path:
Current Profile:
Name: VueScan
Path: ~/Library

Use Mac OS X's *ColorSync Utility* to make sure your custom profiles are selected and ready to use.

Choosing profiles

There's one final step to making sure your peripherals are accurately calibrated: choosing the correct profiles in Mac OS X's *ColorSync Utility*. To do this launch C*ColorSync Utility* (from Applications > Utilities) Choose **Devices** from the toolbar. Look for the type of device whose profile you want to add, and click on the expansion triangle next to it; you should see a list of the devices whose drivers are installed on your Mac. Choose the device from the list. Click on the button next to **Current Profile**, and choose **Other…**. Use the **Finder** window to navigate to your desired profile, and click **Open**.

With all your peripherals – or at least, your display, scanner and printer – working in harmony, discrepancies between screen and print should be a thing of the past. However, we're not pretending that this is an exhaustive guide to profiling and calibrating: books have been, and continue to be, devoted to the topic. This brief tutorial should, however, have given you some idea of what is possible and, more importantly, the steps to take if things start to go awry again. In particular, we'd suggest you calibrate your monitor regularly, particularly if you use your Mac for a whole range of tasks, as most of us do. After all, even if you don't want to invest in a hardware calibrator such as the Huey, you can always use Mac OS X's *Display Calibrator Assistant* for free!

Trevor Middleton

TEMPERATURE AND COLOUR

One of the key ideas behind colour calibration in monitors, and colour correction in film and digital photography, is that of colour temperature. Colour temperature is measured on the Kelvin scale (symbol: K), where 0 K is equal to -273.15 Celsius. Colour temperatures are determined by comparing the colour of a light source against that of an ideal object called a black body radiator.

When an object heats up in a fire it first glows red, then progressively grows more yellow, until in the end we would say that it is glowing 'white-hot'. For this reason, redder hues are considered to be at the lower end of the colour temperature scale, whilst colours such as blue occupy the higher part. In monitor calibration, certain colour temperatures have been adopted as representing natural daylight in differing, ideal conditions: so, 5000K = D50, 5500K = D55 and 6500K = D65. Choosing one of these so-called 'target white points' therefore has a major bearing on the way you see images on screen.

Some designers go as far as to have special, daylight-balanced light bulbs in their workrooms, matching their monitor's target white point. For super-critical work that's okay, but for the rest of us, ordinary lighting does the job.

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yoyotech.co.uk
play.com
advancetec.co.uk

Create keyboard shortcuts

Speed up your Mac by creating keyboard shortcuts to instantly issue common commands

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.4 or 10.5
- Keyboard

Anyone that's used a computer for any length of time will know about common keyboard shortcuts, such as hitting ⌘+[N] to create a new document, or ⌘+[C] and ⌘+[V] to copy and paste information from one document to another. And, of course, there's the row of 'function' keys ([F1] to [F12] on a laptop keyboard or even [F16] on a full-size desktop keyboard), which can be used to control features such as Exposé or *Dashboard*.

However OS X has dozens of additional shortcuts that can be used for anything from moving items to the trash to magnifying images on your screen. Some of these shortcuts can be hard to remember, though – how about ⌘+⇧+⌥+[Delete] to empty the Trash? They also need far too many fingers to really be convenient. Fortunately, the **Keyboard & Mouse** control panel found in your Mac's main *System Preferences* allows you to reprogram many of these keyboard shortcuts so that they use key combinations that are easier to remember. If you don't use *Dashboard* or Spaces very often then you can quickly re-assign the existing *Dashboard* and Spaces shortcuts to control other features that are more useful.

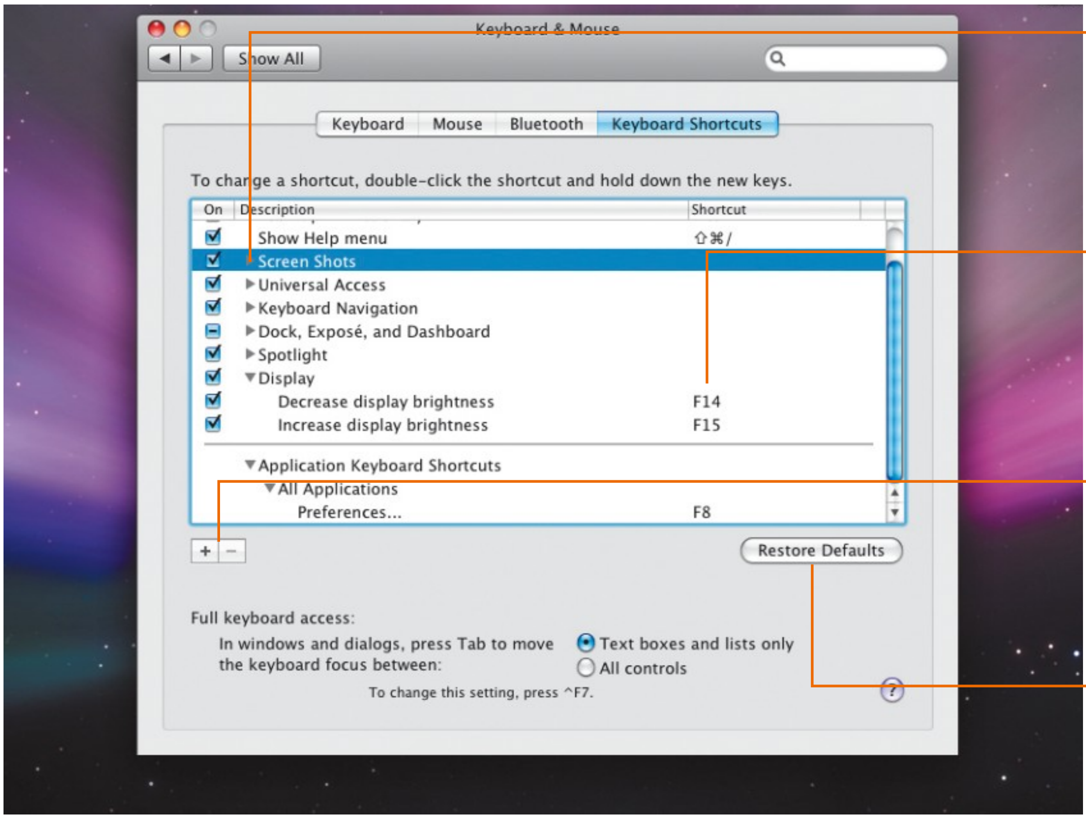
You can also create entirely new keyboard shortcuts of your own to control the programs that you use the most, or the tasks that you perform most often. You can even create 'global' shortcuts that work with all programs – as we do in our tutorial on these pages. There are limits to the things you can do with the standard **Keyboard & Mouse** control panel – you can't create keyboard shortcuts that will select or open specific files or folders, for example (although there are plenty of shareware and commercial programs available that will do this for you).

However, any command found in the menus of your favourite programs can usually be assigned to a new keyboard shortcut, so take a look at the **Keyboard & Mouse** settings to see how you can speed up the most common tasks and commands that you use every day, making you more productive.

Cliff Joseph

> "If you don't use Dashboard or Spaces you can re-assign their shortcuts to control other features"

TOP FEATURES | Creating keyboard shortcuts in OS X



To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.

On	Description	Shortcut
☑	Show Help menu	⇧⌘/
☑	Screen Shots	
☑	▶Universal Access	
☑	▶Keyboard Navigation	
⊟	▶Dock, Exposé, and Dashboard	
☑	▶Spotlight	
☑	▼Display	
☑	Decrease display brightness	F14
☑	Increase display brightness	F15
	▼Application Keyboard Shortcuts	
	▼All Applications	
	Preferences...	F8

Full keyboard access:

In windows and dialogs, press Tab to move the keyboard focus between:

● Text boxes and lists only
○ All controls

To change this setting, press ^F7.

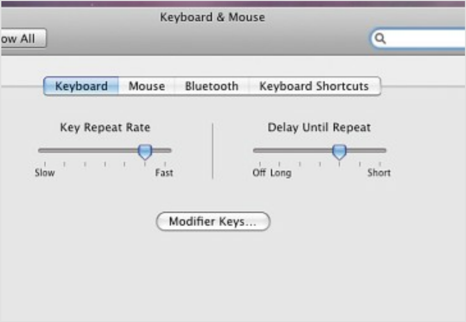
Triangles
These little triangles indicate groups of related shortcuts that have been gathered together, such as those for creating screen shots.

Click Keys
Just double-click on the command keys shown in this column to assign new key combinations to existing commands.

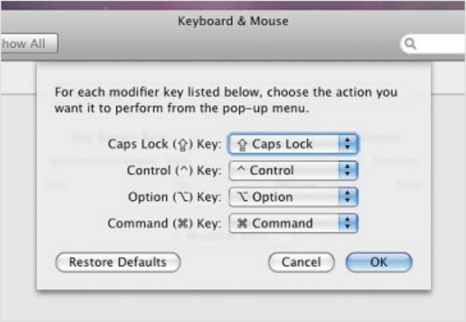
Add new shortcuts
To create entirely new keyboard shortcuts you just click the + button and then specify the programs your new shortcuts will control.

Restore Defaults
If you get a bit confused or make a mistake, this button will restore the default settings for all keyboard shortcuts, so you can start over.

STEP BY STEP How to customise your keyboard shortcuts


Keyboard & Mouse
Show All
Keyboard
Mouse
Bluetooth
Keyboard Shortcuts
Key Repeat Rate
Slow
Fast
Delay Until Repeat
Off
Long
Short
Modifier Keys…

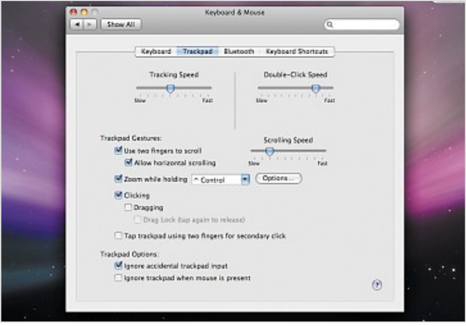
01 The **Keyboard & Mouse** panel in **System Preferences** is divided into four sections, but before we look at those there's a couple of settings to adjust here. We like to increase the **key repeat rate**, which controls the speed at which keys repeat when you keep them pressed down continuously, as this speeds up text editing in *Word*.


Keyboard & Mouse
Show All
Restore Defaults
Cancel
OK

For each modifier key listed below, choose the action you want it to perform from the pop-up menu.

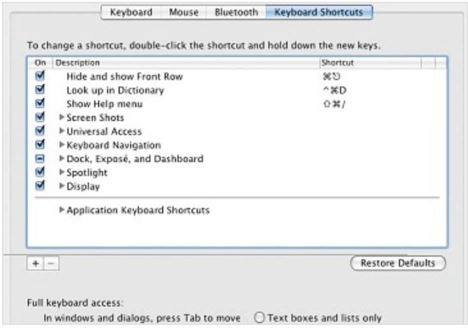
Caps Lock (⇪) Key: ⇪ Caps Lock
Control (^) Key: ^ Control
Option (⌥) Key: ⌥ Option
Command (⌘) Key: ⌘ Command

02 Click the **Modifier Keys** button. The modifier keys are found in the bottom-left section of your keyboard, such as ⌘, [Ctrl] and ⌥. These keys are arranged slightly differently on Mac and PC keyboards, so people that have just switched over to the Mac from using a PC might want to adjust the settings here to match their old PC keyboard.


Keyboard & Mouse
Show All
Keyboard
Trackpad
Bluetooth
Keyboard Shortcuts
Tracking Speed
Double-Click Speed
Slow
Fast
Trackpad Gestures:
Scrolling Speed
Options…
Trackpad Options:

☑ Use two fingers to scroll
☑ Allow horizontal scrolling
☑ Zoom while holding ^ Control
☑ Clicking
☐ Dragging
☐ Drag Lock (tap again to release)
☐ Tap trackpad using two fingers for secondary click
☑ Ignore accidental trackpad input
☐ Ignore trackpad when mouse is present

03 If you're using an ordinary mouse with a desktop Mac the **Mouse** panel enables you to adjust the cursor and double-click speed. MacBook users will see a more complex panel with additional settings for the trackpad. The settings will vary, depending your model – the latest MacBooks have settings for the new Multi-Touch trackpads.

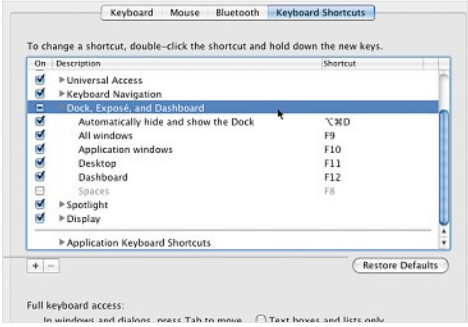

Keyboard
Mouse
Bluetooth
Keyboard Shortcuts
Restore Defaults
+ −

To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.

On	Description	Shortcut
☑	Hide and show Front Row	⌘⎋
☑	Look up in Dictionary	^⌘D
☑	Show Help menu	⇧⌘/
☑	▸Screen Shots	
☑	▸Universal Access	
☑	▸Keyboard Navigation	
☐	▸Dock, Exposé, and Dashboard	
☑	▸Spotlight	
☑	▸Display	
	▸Application Keyboard Shortcuts	

Full keyboard access:
In windows and dialogs, press Tab to move ○ Text boxes and lists only

04 The **Bluetooth** panel simply shows details such as the battery power left in a Bluetooth keyboard or mouse. The **Keyboard Shortcuts** panel lists keyboard shortcuts that you can use to control your Mac. Some shortcuts – such as ⌘+[O] for Open – are fixed and can't be changed. However, this box lists shortcuts that can be changed.

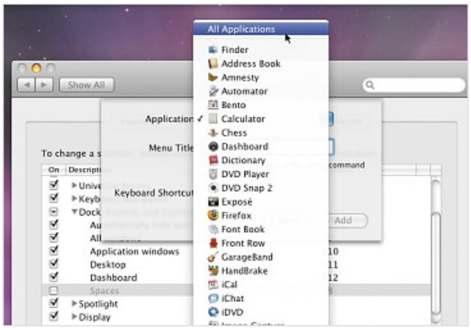

Keyboard
Mouse
Bluetooth
Keyboard Shortcuts
Restore Defaults
+ −

To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.

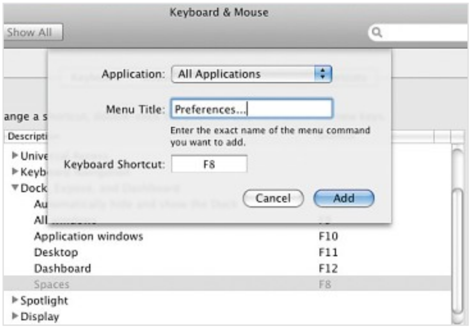
On	Description	Shortcut
☑	▸Universal Access	
☑	▸Keyboard Navigation	
☐	▾Dock, Exposé, and Dashboard	
☑	Automatically hide and show the Dock	⌥⌘D
☑	All windows	F9
☑	Application windows	F10
☑	Desktop	F11
☑	Dashboard	F12
☐	Spaces	F8
☑	▸Spotlight	
☑	▸Display	
	▸Application Keyboard Shortcuts	

Full keyboard access:

05 To keep things tidy, shortcuts are organised into groups. Click on a triangle to 'expand' the group and see all the shortcuts inside. Here, we've clicked on the **Dock, Exposé and Dashboard** group. Notice that there's a shortcut for Spaces that uses [F8] – this shortcut is deselected and turned off by default.

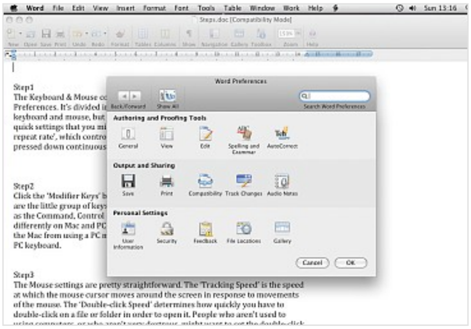

All Applications
Finder
Address Book
Amnesty
Automator
Bento
Calculator
Chess
Dashboard
Dictionary
DVD Player
DVD Snap 2
Exposé
Firefox
Font Book
Front Row
GarageBand
HandBrake
iCal
iChat
iDVD
Show All
Application
Menu Title
Keyboard Shortcut
Add

06 We don't use Spaces often, so let's create a new shortcut that makes better use of [F8]. Click the + sign beneath this window to create a new shortcut. A dialog box appears that enables you to specify how this new shortcut will work. You can specify whether the shortcut will work with just one specific program or with all apps.


Keyboard & Mouse
Show All
Cancel
Add

Application: All Applications
Menu Title: Preferences…
Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.
Keyboard Shortcut: F8

07 All programs have a **Preferences** command, so it'll be handy to create a shortcut that opens the **Preferences** panel in any program we use. Type **Preferences…** into the **Menu Title** box (include the trailing dots, as that's how the command is listed in the program menu). Enter **[F8]** as the keyboard shortcut that will activate that command.


Word
File
Edit
View
Insert
Format
Font
Tools
Table
Window
Work
Help
Word Preferences
Authoring and Proofing Tools
Output and Sharing
Personal Settings
Cancel
OK

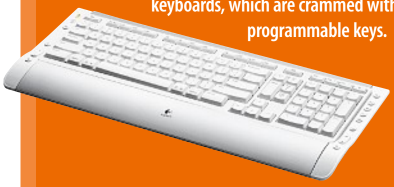
08 Click the **Add** button to add the new shortcut and then switch into a program such as *Word*. Hit **[F8]** and you'll immediately see the program's **Preferences** panel appear. You can go back and delete this shortcut whenever you want. If things get confusing, use the **Restore Defaults** command to revert to OS X's original shortcuts. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

One keyboard shortcut that we use all the time is ⌘+[Backspace] to send files to the Trash. We also like ⌘+drag to tidy up icons on the Desktop.

EXPERT TIP

If you really want to go to town with keyboard shortcuts, you could buy one of Logitech's or Microsoft's Mac-compatible keyboards, which are crammed with special programmable keys.



OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

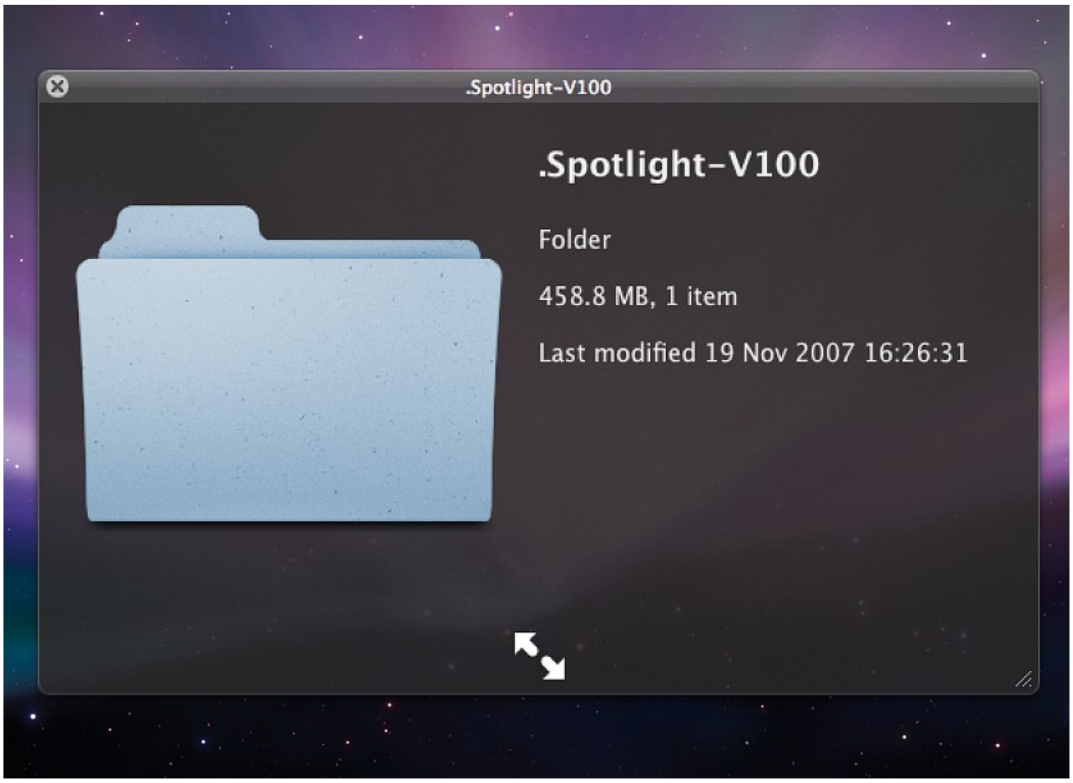
Get more from Spotlight

Trevor Middleton seeks out some of the many idiosyncrasies of Mac OS X's mighty file finder

PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: Freelance consultant and trainer
System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), **Power** Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800). .

Spotlight stores its index data in a folder called **.Spotlight-V100**, which is normally invisible.



.Spotlight-V100

Folder

458.8 MB, 1 item

Last modified 19 Nov 2007 16:26:31

Spotlight, Mac OS X's desktop search feature, is a gift to the lazy (such as me, for instance). I mean, why bother where you put things if all you have to do is tap ⌘+[Spacebar] and type the first few characters of a file (or an application)'s name, in order to find them again? Well, incredibly useful (and all-pervasive) though Spotlight is, it isn't always perfect. To understand some of its quirks, this time I'll be taking a look at how Spotlight works and, more important, how to do something about those quirks.

In order to store its indexing information, Spotlight creates a folder called **.Spotlight-V100** at the root level of your hard disk. Like all other files whose names begin with a period (.), it is normally invisible. Not that that's going to stop us from taking a look at it: launch *Terminal* (Applications > Utilities), type:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles -boolean yes
```

Hit [Enter]. Then type:

```
sudo killall Finder
```

Hit [Enter], and enter your password when you're prompted. To make the files invisible again, repeat this process, substituting 'no' for 'yes' in the first step.

As you can see from the screenshot, Spotlight indices can be fairly hefty, and there's a similar directory on each volume indexed by Spotlight. It makes sense, therefore, to prevent Spotlight indexing, say, any external disks you use as archives as, by definition, their contents are already organised. Luckily, this is easily accomplished by going to System Preferences > Spotlight, then clicking on the **Privacy** tab and dragging the relevant volumes to the centre of the pane. Incidentally, if you're having problems with Spotlight, dragging a disk to the **Privacy** pane, and then removing it by selecting it and clicking the minus button will cause its database to rebuild.

> "I like Spotlight and use it a lot on my Mac, but there are times when it gets in my way"

Multiple hard drives

If, like me, you have multiple external hard disks that you regularly use, hooking them all up at once can mean that your Mac can suffer a performance hit, as Spotlight updates their indices. If you don't want to enable Privacy for each one, connecting them one by one and waiting for each index update to finish is an option that stops your Mac's resources being hogged for too long, though it's not ideal. Additionally, if you're a heavyweight *Photoshop* user, regularly render videos or carry out any task that involves your hard disk processing masses of data, Spotlight can seriously affect your Mac's performance; enabling **Privacy** is a must in those circumstances.

As you can imagine, it didn't take shareware programmers long to cotton on to some of Spotlight's shortcomings, and there are some excellent utilities to help you to delete old index files and disable Spotlight on selected volumes. One of the best of these is *Spotless*, from Fixamac Software (around £15, from **www.fixamac.net**).

Those of you of a more intrepid disposition can carry out Spotlight maintenance using the command-line in *Terminal*, where you'll find the Spotlight metadata management tool **mdutil**. For instance, if you want to delete the existing Spotlight database, launch *Terminal*, and type:

```
sudo mdutil -E -a
```

Hit [Enter]. Spotlight will restart indexing when the old index is removed. By the way, to explain those commands, **-E** causes the Spotlight index we saw above to be removed; **-a** instructs **mdutil** to remove that index from all local volumes.

Don't get me wrong, I like Spotlight, and use it a lot on my main Mac, but there are times when it just gets in my way. If I'd wanted that, I'd have bought a PC. ●

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allOver photography / Alamy

Music that's DRM-free doesn't restrict you to playing it on more than one MP3 player or more than one Mac.

Use alternatives to iTunes

The iTunes Store isn't your only choice for buying digital music – we show you where else to look

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Any Mac
- A web browser
- A music player – *iTunes* or your choice of alternatives
- 20 minutes of your time

Apple is very, very clever. As a fan of the company, it's easy to fall into a swoon at the design of the new MacBooks and the wonderful new 24-inch LED Cinema Display. But where Apple really excels is in getting us to feel good about parting with our money.

This is especially evident in its *iTunes* application: each new version has made it easier to buy from the iTunes Store. And with the new **Genius** features in *iTunes 8*, and the clever integration that gives you a personalised experience of the Store, you could easily burn through a few hundred pounds in an afternoon, hypnotised by the ease of shopping and the great new music you were buying. But as the sun went down, you'd most likely find yourself with a whole lot of music encrypted with Apple's proprietary Digital Rights Management (DRM), which means you're not able to play it on just any music player, and you're restricted in the number of computers you can transfer it to, among other limitations. And, what's more, there's a good chance that the music you'd have bought would be encoded at the relatively low quality of 128kbit/s. Although iTunes Plus offers DRM-free downloads encoded at higher quality, only a portion of the *iTunes* catalogue is currently available in this format. Fear not, as there is an increasing number of alternative options available to you – and we're going to give you the scoop on a few of the best of these.

> "iTunes Plus offers DRM-free, but only a portion of the iTunes catalogue is available in this format"

If you like to pay per song

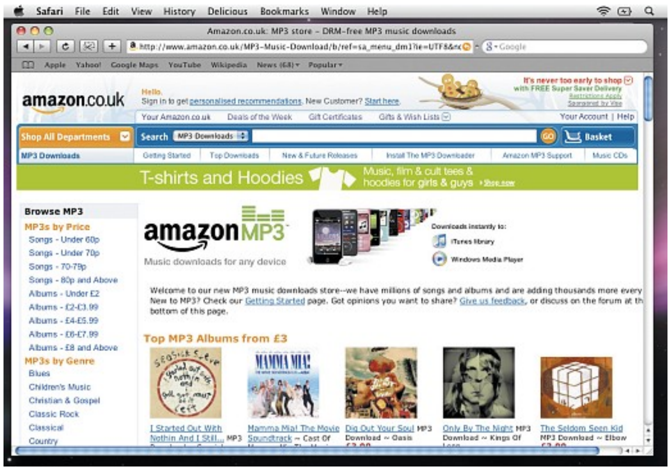
Apple's biggest (and, in the UK, newest) competitor is Amazon (**www.amazon.co.uk**). The Amazon MP3 store first opened in the US in September 2007, but it was only finally introduced in the UK at the beginning of December 2008. The store currently sells over 5,000,000 songs, and has the widest range of types of music of all the UK online music stores, from top ten singles to Finnish folk music. Apple's store has more than 8,000,000 tracks, so the gap is still large, but with Amazon behind it, the MP3 store might eventually catch up with or even outstrip *iTunes* – if anybody can, Amazon can. Its size and ubiquity also allows Amazon to sell some things very cheaply: so at the launch of the MP3 service, more than 100 popular albums were available for just £3 each. All

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE JARGON

There's a whole lot of technical language relating to digital media. Throughout this article you'll find references to bit rates, DRM and formats. Here's a lowdown on what you need to know. Digital audio uses electronic signals to reproduce sound; this involves converting from the original source sounds to an electronic format. Music is encoded by applying a compression algorithm to reduce the amount of data required to represent the original sounds. The more kilobits per second (kbits/s), the better the sound quality – there are other factors, but bit rate is the most important. When the rate is too low, there's an increased likelihood of hearing 'compression artefacts,' sounds that weren't present in the original recording. The most common format is MP3, though there are others, including Advanced Audio Coding (AAC), Audio Interchange File Format (AIFF), Ogg Vorbis, and Windows Media Audio (WMA). The biggest advantage of Variable Bit Rate (VBR) is that it reduces file sizes; it's greatest disadvantage is that it can introduce more of those compression artefacts, though the algorithms used are improving. Finally, DRM, Digital Rights Management, is any of a number of ways producers of digital music can restrict access to their media, including limiting the number of machines on which it can be played, or harnessing it to particular players. The DRM used in the iTunes Store means that songs you buy (excluding iTunes Plus) can only be played on five authorised computers, and an *iTunes* playlist with songs that are DRM protected can only be burned to CD seven times.

02 Killing The Blues.m4a
Killing The Blues

AAC is Apple's format choice but MP3 is the most common.


Safari File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Window Help
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amazon.co.uk
Hello. Sign in to get personalised recommendations. New Customer? Start here.
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Gift Certificates
Gifts & Wish Lists
Your Account | Help
Shop All Departments
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MP3 Downloads
Getting Started
Top Downloads
New & Future Releases
Install The MP3 Downloader
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T-shirts and Hoodies
Music, film & cult tees & hoodies for girls & guys
Browse MP3
MP3s by Price
Songs - Under 60p
Songs - Under 70p
Songs - 70-79p
Songs - 80p and Above
Albums - Under £2
Albums - £2-£3.99
Albums - £4-£5.99
Albums - £6-£7.99
Albums - £8 and Above
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Children's Music
Christian & Gospel
Classic Rock
Classical
Country
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Windows Media Player
Top MP3 Albums from £3
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Mamma Mia! The Movie Soundtrack ~ Cast Of
Dig Out Your Soul MP3 Download ~ Oasis
Only By The Night MP3 Download ~ Kings Of
The Seldom Seen Kid MP3 Download ~ Elbow

Welcome to our new MP3 music downloads store--we have millions of songs and albums and are adding thousands more every New to MP3? Check our Getting Started page. Got opinions you want to share? Give us feedback, or discuss on the forum at th bottom of this page.

Amazon has recently launched its MP3 download store in the UK, with tracks starting from 59p and albums from £3.

tracks are DRM-free MP3s, encoded at 256kbit/s, which means you can play them on any player and they're not tethered to your individual account or machine.

As with *iTunes*, you can either buy individual tracks or the entire album — and, as with *iTunes*, there are some tracks that are only available when you buy the entire album. Most tracks sell for 69p, but some are cheaper, and some more expensive. If you've ever bought from Amazon before, buying MP3s will be a familiar, straightforward experience. Alongside each track, you'll find a little grey-and-white play button: click that and you can listen to a 30-second preview of the song. When you're ready to buy, you can either use the **1-Click** button, which will immediately take you to checkout, or you can add tracks or the entire album to your basket and then checkout as usual. You'll need to install the *Amazon MP3 Downloader* to download albums, which can be set to automatically add downloaded songs to you *iTunes* app.

Other MP3 stores

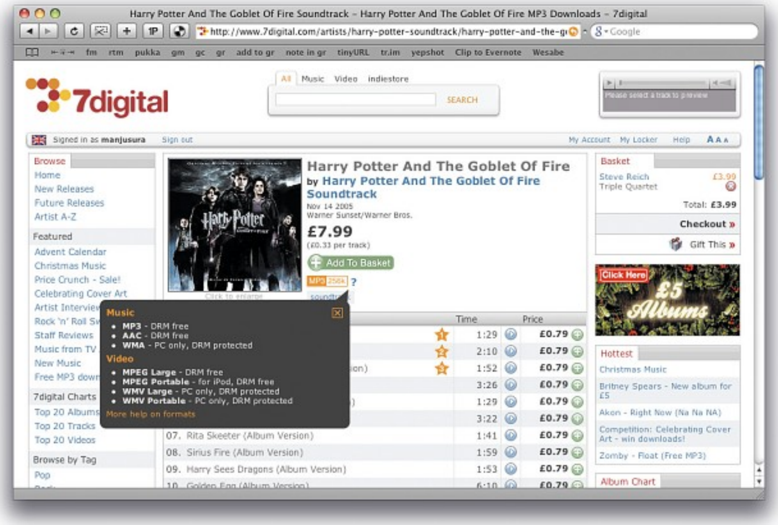
The launch of Amazon's MP3 store really changed the UK market. But of course they're not the only contenders for your music-buying buck.

We are also impressed by the range of titles and styles on 7digital (**www.7digital.com**). The store opened in 2004, and sells music, audiobooks, and videos. It currently has more than 4,000,000 tracks available. Individual songs are priced between 79p and 99p. Most of the music on 7digital has 256kbit/s MP3 encoding, while much of it is encoded at even higher rates; almost all of it is DRM-free (except for the tracks encoded in WMA, which Mac users should avoid anyway). You can see the format of each recording under the album details. 7digital is unusual in the range of ways you can pay for your purchase, including PayPal, Click&Buy, and SMS voucher, which lets you pay for individual tracks (not albums) by sending a text message from your phone. As soon as you've paid by your chosen method, you're taken to your **Downloads** page, from which you can instantly download your new music in a zipped file.

> "Amazon has the widest range of music of the UK online music stores, from top ten singles to Finnish folk"

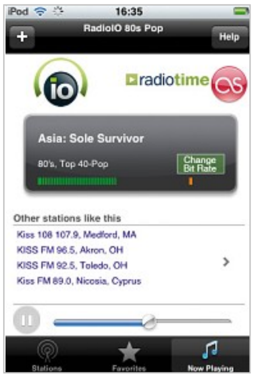
Chart music to Jazz

7digital has a wide range of styles – you'll find most of the current chart music here, but also a very good selection of Jazz, Classical and avant-garde recordings. If your tastes veer a bit further away from the mainstream, then you'll be hard-pressed to beat Boomkat (**www.boomkat.com**). The website describes itself as a resource for music 'that exists beyond the radar.' Boomkat sells downloads, but also CDs, vinyl, and 'stuff,' including DVDs, books, and t-shirts. What sets them apart is not only the range of music they offer, but the quality of their editorial content – if this is the kind of music you like, this is a great place to look for trustworthy opinions about ►


Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire Soundtrack – Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire MP3 Downloads – 7digital
http://www.7digital.com/artists/harry-potter-soundtrack/harry-potter-and-the-g
fm rtm pukka gm gc gr add to gr note in gr tinyURL tr.im yepshot Clip to Evernote Wesabe
7digital
All Music Video indiestore
SEARCH
Please select a track to preview
Signed in as manjusura Sign out
My Account My Locker Help
Browse
Home
New Releases
Future Releases
Artist A-Z
Featured
Advent Calendar
Christmas Music
Price Crunch - Sale!
Celebrating Cover Art
7digital Charts
Top 20 Albums
Top 20 Tracks
Top 20 Videos
Browse by Tag
Pop
Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire
by Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire Soundtrack
Nov 14 2005
Warner Sunset/Warner Bros.
£7.99
(£0.33 per track)
Add To Basket
MP3 256k
Click to enlarge
Music
MP3 - DRM free
AAC - DRM free
WMA - PC only, DRM protected
Video
MPEG Large - DRM free
MPEG Portable - for iPod, DRM free
WMV Large - PC only, DRM protected
WMV Portable - PC only, DRM protected
More help on formats
Time
Price
07. Rita Skeeter (Album Version) 1:41 £0.79
08. Sirius Fire (Album Version) 1:59 £0.79
09. Harry Sees Dragons (Album Version) 1:53 £0.79
Basket
Steve Reich Triple Quartet £3.99
Total: £3.99
Checkout »
Gift This »
Click Here £5 Albums
Hottest
Christmas Music
Britney Spears - New album for £5
Akon - Right Now (Na Na NA)
Competition: Celebrating Cover Art - win downloads!
Zomby - Float (Free MP3)
Album Chart

Downloading is easy with the 7digital MP3 store: all albums are zipped up into one file.

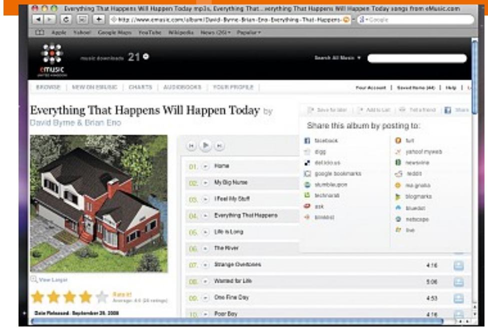
QUICK TIP


iPod
16:35
RadioIO 80s Pop
Help
radiotime
Asia: Sole Survivor
80's, Top 40-Pop
Change Bit Rate
Other stations like this
Kiss 108 107.9, Medford, MA
KISS FM 96.5, Akron, OH
KISS FM 92.5, Toledo, OH
Kiss FM 89.0, Nicosia, Cyprus
Stations
Favorites
Now Playing

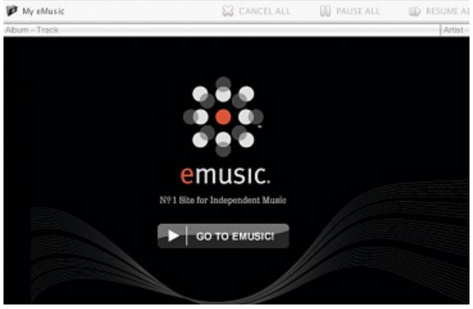
Last.fm on iPhone

We wrote about Last.fm in our *iTunes* tutorial in *MacFormat* 201. What we didn't mention there was the Last.fm iPhone/iPod touch app, which you can use to tune into your personal radio broadcasts and access all your Last.fm playlists and recommendations. There's also a built-in calendar of events, so you can see when any artist you're listening to is playing live.

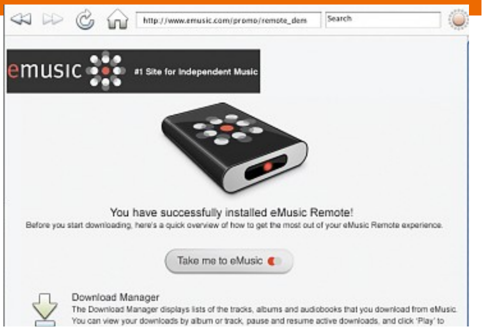
STEP BY STEP Buying digital music from different online music stores



01 eMusic has has been redesigned and now contains some really nice touches, like links for exploring related content on YouTube, Flickr and Wikipedia, editorial content, and options not only for saving things for later, but for posting to other sites like Facebook, Digg, or Stumbleupon, extending the site's social aspect even further.

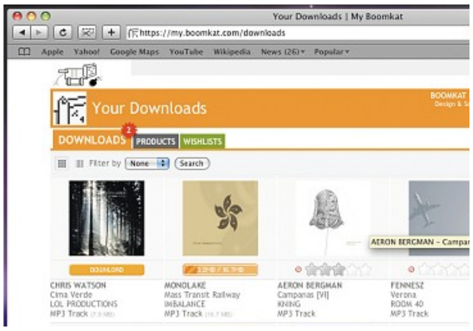

eMusic Download Manager
emusic.
Nº1 Site for Independent Music
GO TO EMUSIC!

02 The eMusic *Download Manager* will catch any downloads from eMusic, download them to wherever you specify, and can automatically add new tracks to your *iTunes* library. It'll also close itself down when your downloads are finished, and it includes some handy links into your account, so you can easily view your entire download history.

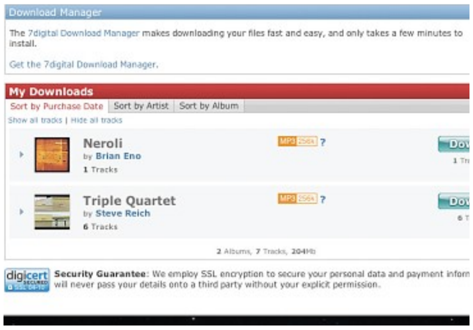


You have successfully installed eMusic Remote!

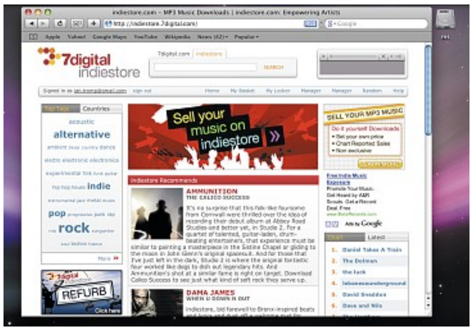
03 The eMusic *Remote*, which is hidden away on an eMusic developer site, **http://developer.emusic.com/**, adds a site-specific web browser to the *Download Manager* for quick access to your account and saved items, your download history, and all aspects of the store, so it's easy to download albums or individual tracks.


Your Downloads | My Boomkat
Your Downloads
DOWNLOADS
PRODUCTS
WISHLISTS

04 When you buy from Boomkat, you'll see a badge with the number of new tracks on your **Downloads** page. The website's well-designed and there are lots of neat little touches, like the progress bar as you download, but it would be nice to get everything on a 14 track purchase in one file, rather than having to download each track.


Download Manager
My Downloads
Neroli
by Brian Eno
Triple Quartet
by Steve Reich

05 Once you've purchased an album or song on 7digital, its added to your **Locker,** and you can return to download it again up to three times should you accidentally delete it (though the help files do offer you a contact box for customer support, so maybe they'll help you get it one more time if you go over that limit!).

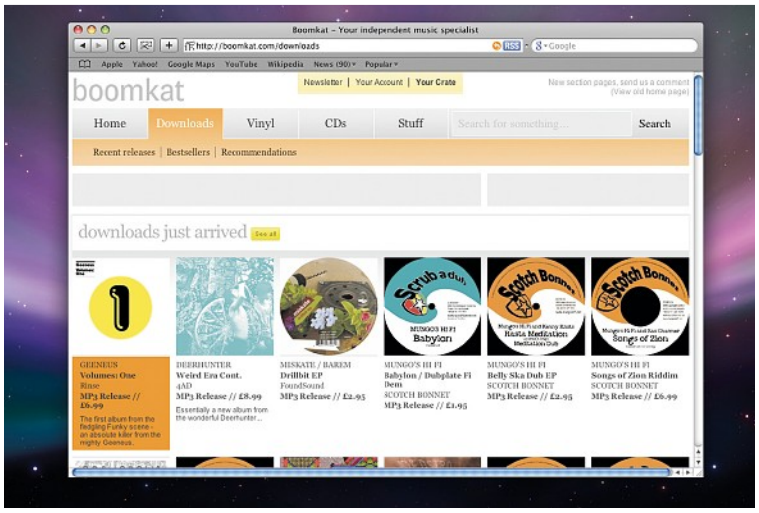

7digital indiestore
Sell your music on indiestore

06 7digital operates indiestore (**www.indiestore.com**) as a service helping independent artists and labels to sell their work online. There's a quick setup process that promises to have your songs on sale within 15 minutes, with Free and Pro accounts available. It's a quick and easy way for new musicians to sell online.

QUICK TIP

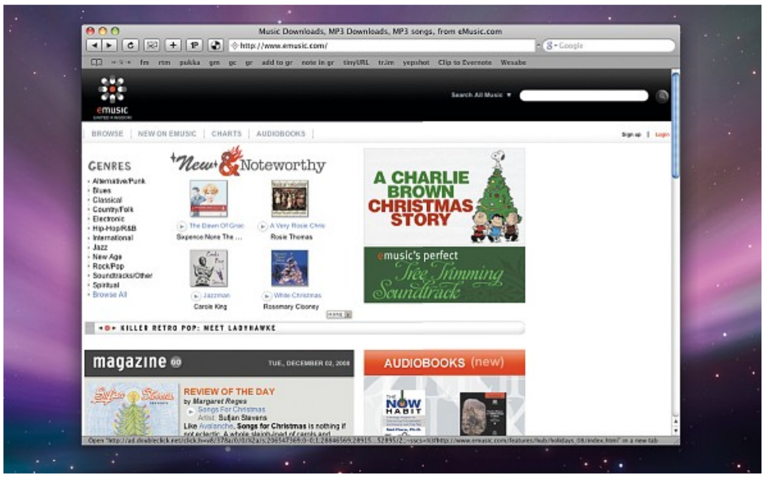
14tracks.com

If you like alternative sounds, check out 14tracks.com (**www.14tracks.com**), a site put together by Boomkat to sell themed selections of, you guessed it, 14 tracks each – these are great value at just £6.86.

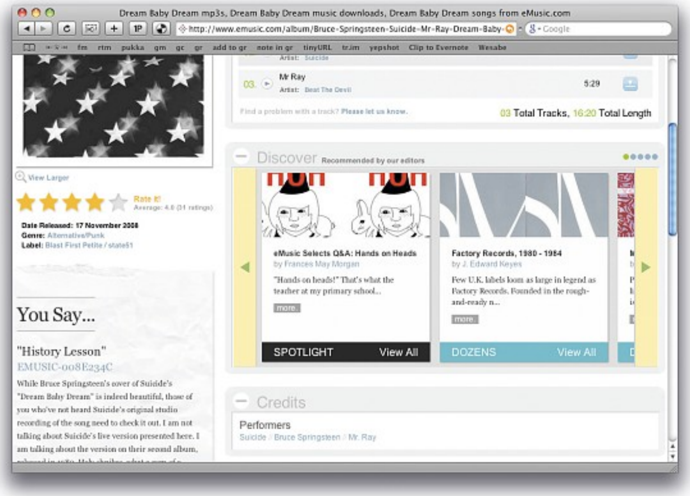

boomkat
Home
Downloads
Vinyl
CDs
Stuff
Search
downloads just arrived

Boomkat's a great source if your taste's a little unusual. You can buy more than just MP3s; there's vinyl, CDs and 'Stuff'!

recordings new and old. Most items have a brief, informed review, and alongside every album listing, you'll find a discography of the artist, a catalogue of other items from the same recording label and a list of other music bought by customers who liked this item. You can use these lists to discover new music related to the tracks you already know. All Boomkat's downloads are in 320kbit/s DRM-free MP3, and much of the catalogue is also available in the lossless FLAC format if you're more of an audiophile and want the best possible sound quality. Individual tracks are 99p, and albums usually cheaper than the sum of their parts. FLAC recordings are a bit more expensive. Boomkat also quite regularly have special promotions, putting together introductions to


Music Downloads, MP3 Downloads, MP3 songs, from eMusic.com
emusic
GENRES
New & Noteworthy
A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS STORY
emusic's perfect Tree Trimming Soundtrack
magazine
REVIEW OF THE DAY
AUDIOBOOKS (new)

eMusic (**www.emusic.co.uk**) is just behind *iTunes* as the second most used download site in the world.


Dream Baby Dream mp3s, Dream Baby Dream music downloads, Dream Baby Dream songs from eMusic.com
03 Total Tracks, 16:20 Total Length
Discover Recommended by our editors
You Say...
"History Lesson"
SPOTLIGHT
View All
DOZENS
Credits
Performers

Learn from others: eMusic makes it easy to discover new music, with its users' reviews and recommendations.

particular labels for a couple of quid – another good way to get to know a new genre or stable of performers.

If you prefer to pay per month

Another way of buying music is by paying a monthly subscription, which entitles you to a certain number of downloads over that period. The best known of stores offering these terms is eMusic (**www.emusic.co.uk**), which offers various levels of membership. They only advertise three of these, but there are others available if you dig around in the site's help files.

The most obvious offers on the store are: £10.99 per month for 30 song downloads per month; £11.99 per month for 50 songs; and for £14.99, you get 75 downloads per month. That's a whole lot of music, even on the cheapest subscription! And because it's per-song, you could conceivably download 30 single-track albums in a month, making it – track for track – much cheaper than the iTunes Store or any of the other contenders mentioned here.

eMusic offers more than 4,000,000 tracks, all encoded in DRM-free MP3 format, so you're bound to find tracks you want. Like Amazon, eMusic uses variable bitrate encoding – this means that more complex passages of sound will be encoded at higher rates than simpler sections of a song. The average bitrate is 192kbit/s.

> "There are several other music stores available, and chances are more will spring up as time goes by"

What we really like about eMusic is its social aspect: listeners are able to contribute reviews of the music they download, and can compile and share lists of their choosing. Whenever you view an item, you'll see a link to lists in which it appears, or to related editorial content – eMusic has various music critics contributing short texts, interviews with artists, and themed gatherings of related tracks. You can use this content and other users' lists to discover all kinds of new music – we've made some really good new discoveries this way and rediscovered great tracks we had forgotten about.

eMusic has less mainstream and popular music than the iTunes Store, Amazon or 7digital, though. The company's CEO has described the service as aimed at 'the 25 and older crowd' – that's a pretty big generalisation, of course, and it may be that they misjudge the taste of younger listeners. Take a look at eMusic's website, because you might just find yourself discovering and downloading a whole new music library, whatever your age.

Other stores

There are several other music stores available, and chances are more will spring up as time goes by. Such diversity can only be good for consumers, perhaps offering cheaper downloads, and making it easier to get hold of a wider range of music. Nobody else has quite the grip on us fans that Apple does, but that shouldn't limit us to only shopping where they make it easiest to go.

Ian Tromp

PODCASTS ON THE GO

There are some kinds of content where you're better off sticking with the iTunes Store, and podcasts are a prime example. With the 2.2 upgrade to the iPhone/iPod touch software, Apple included some very cool improvements to the Music and App Stores. Perhaps the best of these is the ability to download podcasts directly to your device. Open up *iTunes* and select **Podcasts**, and you can select from Apple's choice of the hottest podcasts in the store, the most-downloaded podcasts, or browse all the store's podcasts by category. And when you search within the store, you'll find podcasts returned within the instant search results. So now you can download your favourite podcasts – including those with enhanced content, and even video podcasts – when you're on the go, without needing to sync with your Mac. There are some limitations to the amount you can download on your iphone, though, so see our tutorial on p66 for full details.

iPod 17:57
Search
MacFormat - This Wee...
MacFormat
MacFormat - This Week [En...
Released 24 November 2008
65 Episodes
6 Reviews
1 This Week for Novem... (30:43) 24 November 2008 FREE
2 This Week for Novem... (29:24) 10 November 2008 FREE
3 This Week for Octobe... (39:57) 27 October 2008 FREE
4 This Week for Octobe... (34:45) 13 October 2008 FREE
5 This Week for Septe... (33:08) 29 September 2008 FREE
6 This Week for Septe... (40:30) 15 September 2008 FREE
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
Downloads

Apple has made it easier to add podcasts to your iPhone and iPod touch, without using a Mac. See our tutoria on p66.

QUICK TIP

iPod 16:37
Manjusura's Library
On tour
Stars of the Lid
Dopamine Clouds Over Craven Cottage
00:28
-05:25

Wunder Radio

We've tried a number of Radio apps, and Wunder Radio (£3.49 from the iTunes App Store) is definitely the best of the bunch. Offering more than 60,000 stations, this app can help you tune into everything from Australian music to news from Zagreb – and it has a few unusual features, like being location-aware and suggesting similar stations for you to explore.

Create new menu shortcuts

Use Service Scrubber to reduce the clutter in your Services menu and add handy shortcuts

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- Service Scrubber 1.1.5 or later
- 10 minutes of time

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find *Service Scrubber* on this issue's disc.

Hands up if you've never used the Mac OS X Services menu, or don't even know what it is. We'd wager that there are now quite a few people waving an arm about (and perhaps wondering why they're taking orders from a magazine), and that's a great shame, because the Services menu can be an extremely handy resource. In a nutshell, the Services menu enables you to perform actions on a selection (for example, sending text from a browser to *Mail*, or having a document read to you out loud), either via selecting a menu item or by triggering a system-wide keyboard shortcut.

Aside from some applications ignoring the Services menu entirely (notably Carbon applications made by certain large developers), the main reason many Mac users avoid it is because the menu rapidly becomes a hideous mess if you install a lot of applications. Fortunately, *Service Scrubber* enables you to prune the Services menu and also add shortcuts to items you find useful. Note that changes aren't permanent, and there's a straightforward restore option if you change your mind. Also, *Service Scrubber* is a free download, although it is donationware, so you might want to send a few Euros to the developer (via **http://manytricks.com/servicescrubber**) if you become a regular user.

> "Service Scrubber enables you to prune the Services menu and add shortcuts to items you find useful"

However, even with the might of *Service Scrubber* at your disposal, there are some caveats you need to be aware of before trying it. As mentioned, certain Carbon applications aren't services-aware and so they won't work with the Services menu at all, regardless of what you do to it. Secondly, signed applications under Leopard cannot have their services information edited by *Service Scrubber* – meaning that for once, Tiger users come off best. This issue mostly affects applications made by Apple, although an alternate means of adding system-wide keyboard shortcuts is provided in the included walkthrough. Finally, if you update or reinstall an application you may well need to re-apply your relevant custom services settings, so bear this in mind when contemplating a reinstall.

Craig Grannell

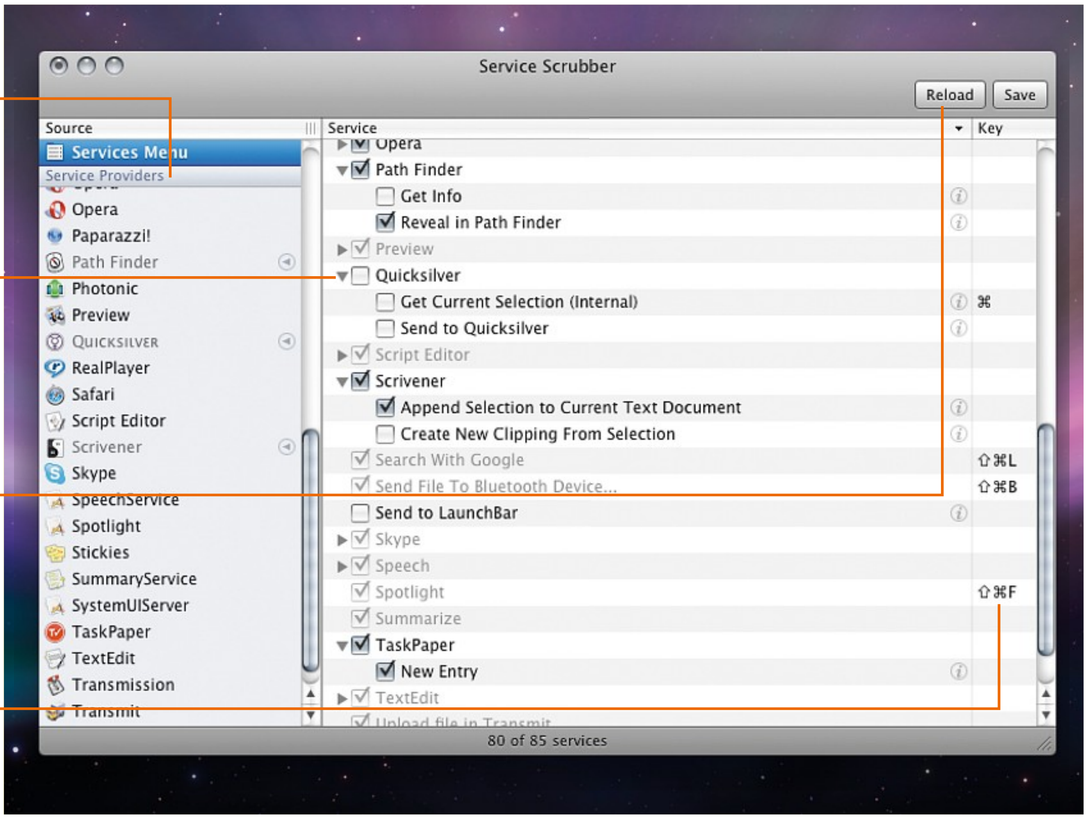
TOP FEATURES | Service Scrubber's simple control centre

Services Menu
The Service Providers area of the sidebar lists all the applications on your computer that include the Services menu in their toolbar.

Services List
The Services List shows the services of selected service providers. These tree lists are expandable and can be checked to include or remove them.

Interface buttons
The Reload button refreshes the list and Save saves changes you've made to Service menus in the currently running session.

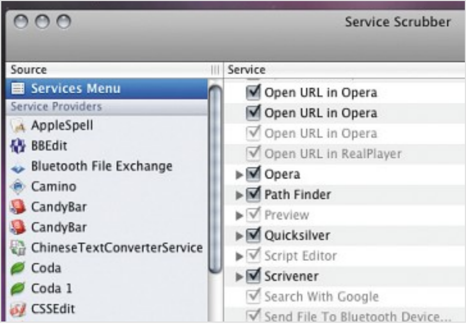
Key column
The Key column displays the current keyboard shortcuts assigned to the service in the appropriate row. You can change these to preference.



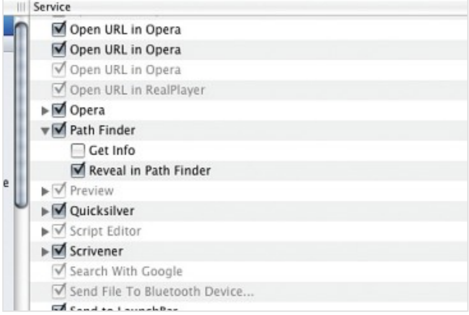
Service	Key
▶ ☑ Opera	
▼ ☑ Path Finder	
☐ Get Info	
☑ Reveal in Path Finder	
▶ ☑ Preview	
▼ ☐ Quicksilver	
☐ Get Current Selection (Internal)	⌘
☐ Send to Quicksilver	
▶ ☑ Script Editor	
▼ ☑ Scrivener	
☑ Append Selection to Current Text Document	
☐ Create New Clipping From Selection	
☑ Search With Google	⇧⌘L
☑ Send File To Bluetooth Device...	⇧⌘B
☐ Send to LaunchBar	
▶ ☑ Skype	
▶ ☑ Speech	
☑ Spotlight	⇧⌘F
☑ Summarize	
▼ ☑ TaskPaper	
☑ New Entry	
▶ ☑ TextEdit	
☑ Upload file in Transmit	

80 of 85 services

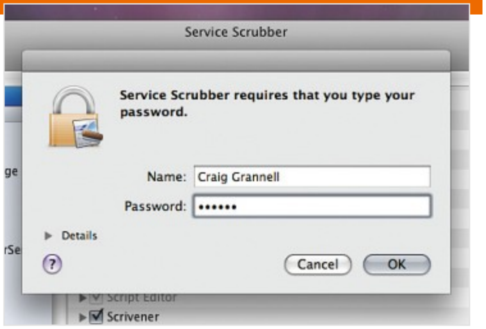
STEP BY STEP Get started with Service Scrubber


Service Scrubber
Source
Service
Services Menu
Service Providers
AppleSpell
BBEdit
Bluetooth File Exchange
Camino
CandyBar
CandyBar
ChineseTextConverterService
Coda
Coda 1
CSSEdit
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in RealPlayer
Opera
Path Finder
Preview
Quicksilver
Script Editor
Scrivener
Search With Google
Send File To Bluetooth Device...

01 Install and launch *Service Scrubber*. In the **Source** sidebar, select **Services Menu**. You'll then see a complete list of your Service menu items in the Service list. Note that if you've multiple copies of an application, its items may be listed several times. Also, Leopard users will see greyed-out items for signed applications.


Service
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in Opera
Open URL in RealPlayer
Opera
Path Finder
Get Info
Reveal in Path Finder
Preview
Quicksilver
Script Editor
Scrivener
Search With Google
Send File To Bluetooth Device...

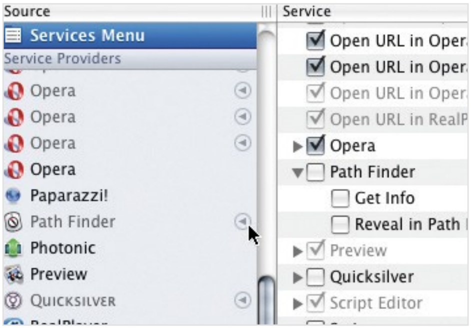
02 As in *Finder*'s list view, use the triangular widgets to open and collapse lists, which show each application's services. (You can also show only a single application's services by selecting it from the **Service Providers** section of the sidebar.) To turn off a service, check the checkbox next to it and click the **Save** button.


Service Scrubber
Details
Cancel
OK
Script Editor
Scrivener

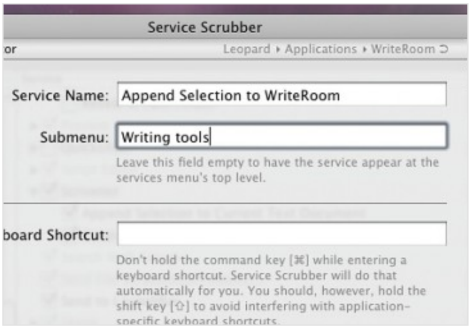
Service Scrubber requires that you type your password.

Name: Craig Grannell
Password: ••••••

03 At this point, you'll be prompted for your administrator's password. Type that in, click **OK** and after a few seconds your changes will be made. Note that to more quickly turn off every service for a specific application, you can click the checkbox next to the application's name prior to clicking Save, rather than each individual service.


Source
Service
Services Menu
Service Providers
Opera
Opera
Opera
Opera
Paparazzi!
Path Finder
Photonic
Preview
Quicksilver
Open URL in Oper
Open URL in Oper
Open URL in Oper
Open URL in RealP
Opera
Path Finder
Get Info
Reveal in Path
Preview
Quicksilver
Script Editor

04 On changing an application's services, a 'revert' icon appears next to its name in the sidebar. Click this and your changes are marked for reversion. Click **Save** and the Services menu will again be updated, bringing back the app's previously removed services. To revert single items: select an app in the sidebar and check its checkbox.


Service Scrubber
Leopard ▸ Applications ▸ WriteRoom

Service Name: Append Selection to WriteRoom

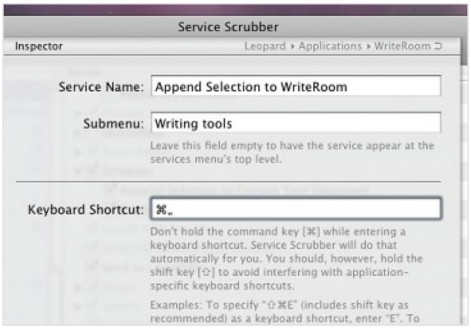
Submenu: Writing tools

Leave this field empty to have the service appear at the services menu's top level.

board Shortcut:

Don't hold the command key [⌘] while entering a keyboard shortcut. Service Scrubber will do that automatically for you. You should, however, hold the shift key [⇧] to avoid interfering with application-specific keyboard shortcuts.

05 Click the **info** icon next to a service to see the Inspector. This provides further options regarding what you can do with the service. The **Submenu** option enables you to change where the service appears in the Services menu. Add a custom sub-menu by typing a text string, or delete the field's content so the service appears at the top.


Service Scrubber
Inspector
Leopard ▸ Applications ▸ WriteRoom

Service Name: Append Selection to WriteRoom

Submenu: Writing tools

Leave this field empty to have the service appear at the services menu's top level.

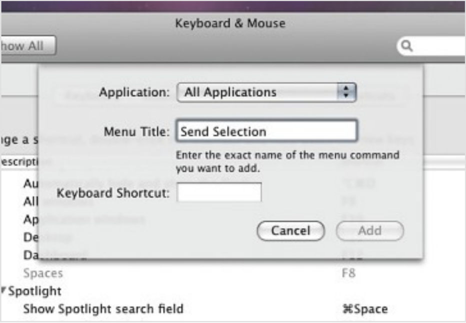
Keyboard Shortcut: ⌘,

Don't hold the command key [⌘] while entering a keyboard shortcut. Service Scrubber will do that automatically for you. You should, however, hold the shift key [⇧] to avoid interfering with application-specific keyboard shortcuts.

Examples: To specify "⇧⌘E" (includes shift key as recommended) as a keyboard shortcut, enter "E". To

06 The second Inspector option is **Keyboard Shortcut**, which enables you to add a system-wide shortcut for the service. Note that *Service Scrubber* automatically adds ⌘, so only hold down the additional keys you want for the shortcut. Take care not to define anything that clashes with existing shortcuts. Click **Apply Changes**.

STEP BY STEP Adding shortcuts to Leopard services


Keyboard & Mouse
how All
Cancel
Add
Spaces
F8
Spotlight
Show Spotlight search field
⌘Space

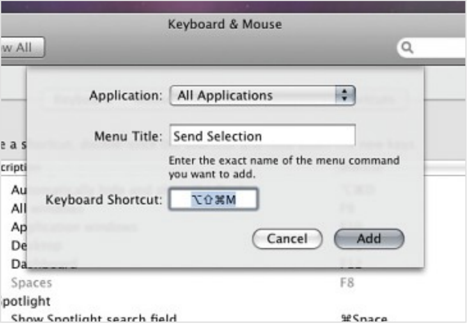
Application: All Applications

Menu Title: Send Selection

Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.

Keyboard Shortcut:

01 If you're using Leopard and want to add shortcuts to services greyed-out in *Service Scrubber*, you can use the **Keyboard Shortcuts** section of the **Keyboard & Mouse** system preferences pane. Click the '+' button, select **All Applications** in the sheet, and type the exact name of the menu title in the field provided.


Keyboard & Mouse
w All
Cancel
Add
Spaces
F8
potlight
Show Spotlight search field
⌘Space

Application: All Applications

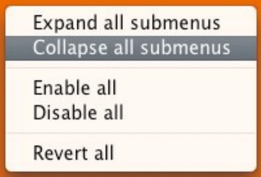
Menu Title: Send Selection

Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.

Keyboard Shortcut: ⌥⇧⌘M

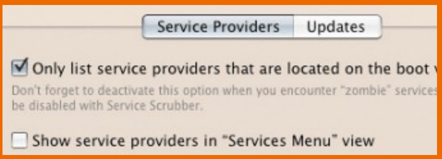
02 Click inside the **Keyboard Shortcut** field and press the keyboard combination you want to invoke the menu item, ensuring it doesn't clash with commonly used shortcuts. (So, ⌘+⌥+Shift+[M] is fine, but ⌘+[M] isn't), and click **Add**. Should you want to remove your shortcut later, select it and click the '-' button. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


Expand all submenus
Collapse all submenus
Enable all
Disable all
Revert all

To perform expand or enable/disable actions on the entire selection displayed in the Services List, **[Ctrl]-click** and choose an option from the contextual menu.

EXPERT TIP


Service Providers
Updates

☑ Only list service providers that are located on the boot v

Don't forget to deactivate this option when you encounter "zombie" services be disabled with Service Scrubber.

☐ Show service providers in "Services Menu" view

If you're a *Time Machine* user, backed-up services may infiltrate the main list. To stop this, access *Service Scrubber's* preferences and check the top checkbox (**Only list...**).

Add podcasts to your iPhone

Apple's new firmware update for iPod touch/iPhone adds extra features

O2-UK
16:24
MacFormat - This Week [Enhanc...
This Week for November 10, 2008
Chapter 1 of 6
Mac
All your Apple needs
FORMAT
This Week

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- An iPod touch or iPhone
- Internet connection
- Latest version of Apple *iTunes* (free, **www.apple.com/itunes**)
- Mac OS X 10.4.10 or higher

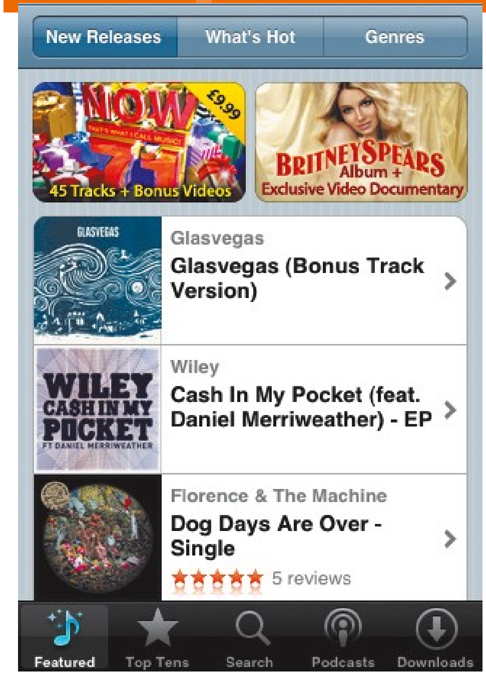
Thanks to Apple's firmware updates, the iPod touch and iPhone's functionality is continually expanding. The most recent firmware update (version 2.2 at the time of writing) added some great new features like **Street View** in *Maps* and a new look (and more reliable) *Safari* browser. Another of the updates got less attention, but it can really change the way you enjoy podcasts. You can now download podcasts directly from the iTunes Store on the iPhone or iPod touch, without having to do it via your Mac and then going through the syncing process.

To show you how it all works we've put together this easy-to-follow tutorial that will take you through the steps necessary to download a podcast, and also how to customise the *iPod* app on the iPod touch or iPhone, so that podcasts become one of your default buttons.

Before you can start, you must download the latest firmware for your iPod touch or iPhone. Simply connect your iPod touch or iPhone to your Mac, and once *iTunes* opens (you may be prompted to download the latest version) you'll be informed that new firmware is available and asked if you'd like to update your iPhone or iPod touch. After you've downloaded and installed the update your iPhone will restart – this takes a while, so don't be alarmed, and then you're ready to follow our tutorial.
Graham Barlow

> "You can now download podcasts directly from the iTunes Store on the iPhone or iPod touch"

STEP BY STEP How to download podcasts straight to your iPhone/iPod touch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45 Tracks + Bonus Videos
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Album +
Exclusive Video Documentary
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Top Tens
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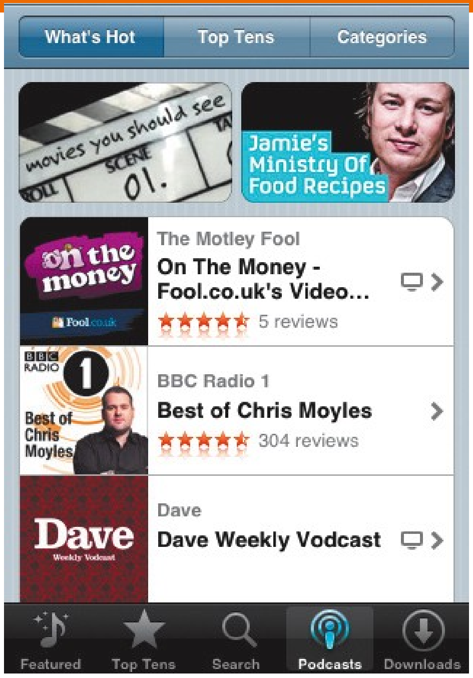
Podcasts
Downloads

Glasvegas
Glasvegas (Bonus Track Version)

Wiley
Cash In My Pocket (feat. Daniel Merriweather) - EP

Florence & The Machine
Dog Days Are Over - Single
★★★★★ 5 reviews

01 The first step is to load up the iTunes Store on your iPhone or iPod touch. To do this just tap the **iTunes** icon on the main screen. You'll notice that it all looks like it did before, but there's one extra button at the bottom of the screen called **Podcasts**.


What's Hot
Top Tens
Categories
movies you should see
SCENE
01.
Jamie's Ministry Of Food Recipes
on the money
Best of Chris Moyles
Dave
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Search
Podcasts
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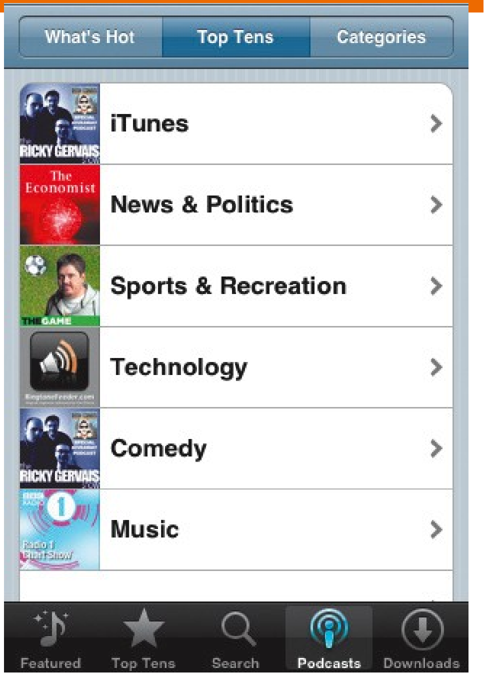
The Motley Fool
On The Money - Fool.co.uk's Video...
★★★★★ 5 reviews

BBC Radio 1
Best of Chris Moyles
★★★★★ 304 reviews

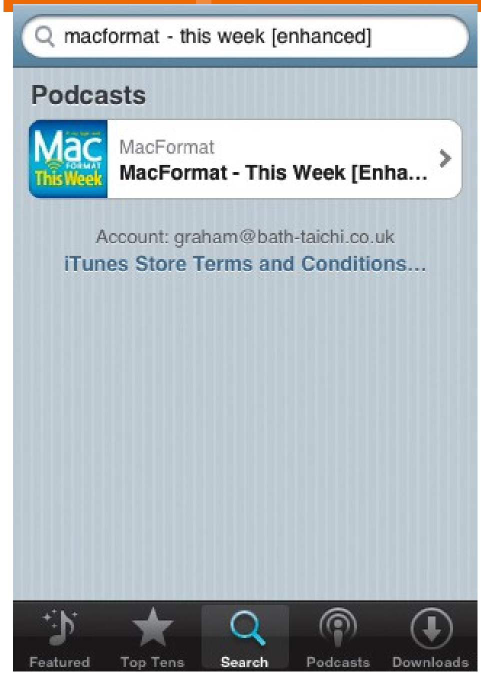
Dave
Dave Weekly Vodcast

02 Tap on **Podcasts**. By default you'll see the **What's Hot** selection. To be honest, this is a good place to find the best podcasts. You can simply scroll down the screen to see the full list. Also notice that there are **Top Tens** and **Categories** buttons at the top.


What's Hot
Top Tens
Categories
iTunes
News & Politics
Sports & Recreation
Technology
Comedy
Music
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
Downloads

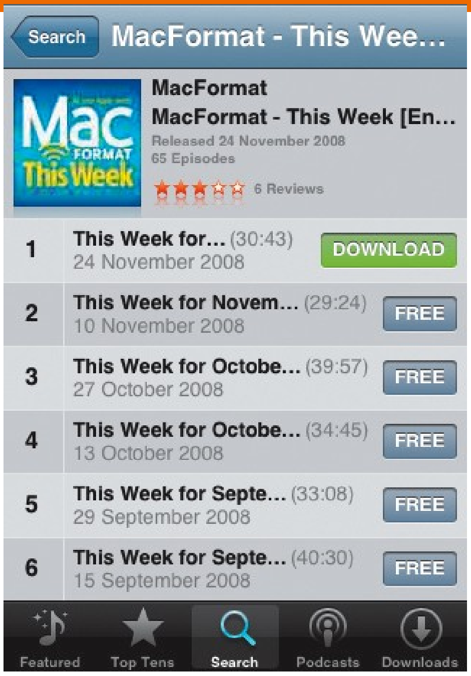
03 Tap on **Top Tens**. If you're looking for Mac or iPhone podcasts, like the *MacFormat This Week* podcast, then you'll find them in the **Technology** section. This screen is probably the best way to locate the type of podcast you're interested in. Take a while to look around.

STEP BY STEP How to download podcasts straight to your iPhone/iPod touch… continued


macformat - this week [enhanced]

Account: graham@bath-taichi.co.uk
Podcasts
MacFormat
MacFormat - This Week [Enha…
iTunes Store Terms and Conditions…
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
Downloads

04 What happens if you're looking for a specific podcast? In a way that's perhaps slightly unintuitive, you do this using the standard *iTunes* **Search** button, rather than anything in the **Podcast** section. Go to **Search** and type in **MacFormat**, then click on our podcast.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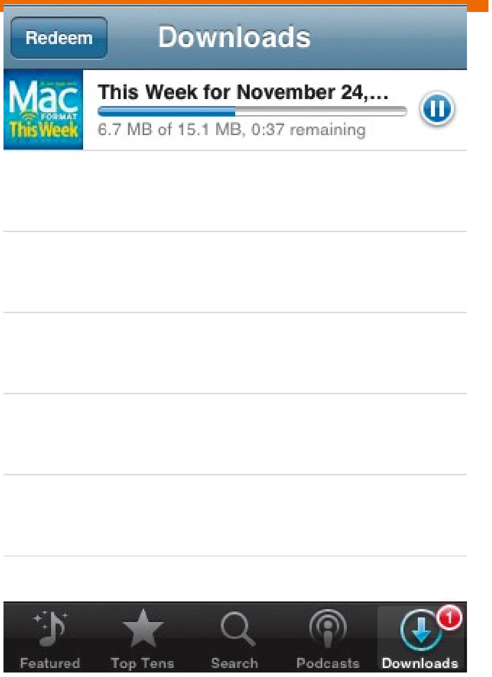
4 This Week for Octobe… (34:45) 13 October 2008 FREE
5 This Week for Septe… (33:08) 29 September 2008 FREE
6 This Week for Septe… (40:30) 15 September 2008 FREE
Search
MacFormat - This Wee…
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
Downloads

05 To download a podcast you simply tap on the **FREE** button next to its name. Notice it will change to a **DOWNLOAD** button once you've tapped it. Tap the **DOWNLOAD** button and a number icon will jump down to the **Downloads** button at the bottom of the screen.


This Week for November 24,…
6.7 MB of 15.1 MB, 0:37 remaining
Redeem
Downloads
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
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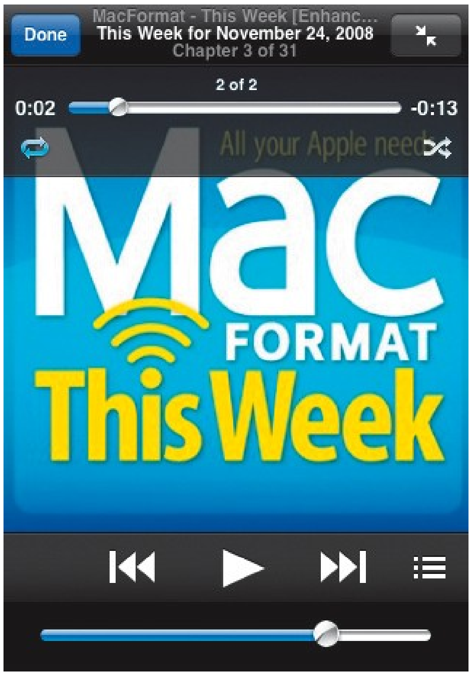
1

06 You can click the **Downloads** button at the bottom of the screen to watch the progress of your download. You need to be using your iPhone over a WiFi connection to download a podcast that's larger than 10MB in size, since this isn't permitted on the cellular network.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This Week for November 24, 2008
Chapter 3 of 31
2 of 2
0:02 -0:13
Done
All your Apple need
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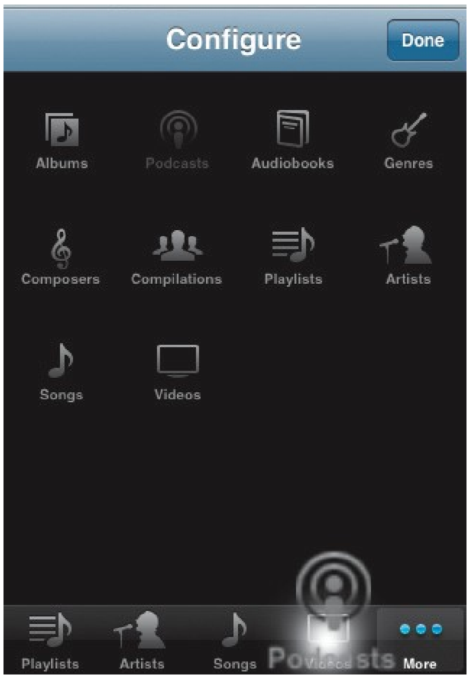
07 To play your podcast, simply head over to your *iPod* app and tap the **More** button at the bottom of the screen, then choose **Podcasts** from the menu. You'll find your downloaded files here. Now you just tap on a file to play it.


Configure
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Albums
Podcasts
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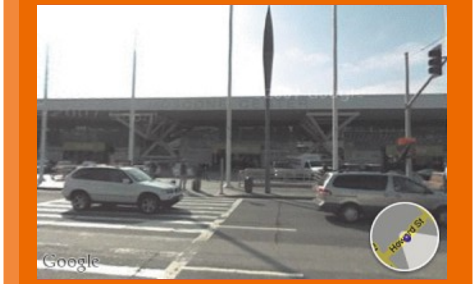
Composers
Compilations
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Videos
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Podcasts
More

08 If you're going to listen to podcasts regularly you might want to customise your *iPod* app screen to give you easier access to them. On the **More** screen tap **Edit** at the top of the screen. Now simply drag and drop **Podcasts** onto a menu item at the bottom of the screen. ●

MORE NEW FEATURES: MAPS' STREET VIEW

The most visual feature of the 2.2 firmware update, and also a feature that can only be activated on the iPhone and not the iPod touch, is **Street View** in the *Maps* application. **Street View** doesn't work in the UK at the time of writing, so you'll have to find a location in the US to test it out. To activate **Street View** you need to find your location first, then tap the **page curl** icon, then tap the **Drop Pin** button. A purple pin will land on your chosen location. If you tap on the pin head you can see a red icon with a person in it. Tap this to activate **Street View**. Use your finger to scroll around the screen for a full 360-degree panoramic view!

Due to a legal clause Apple can't add major new functions to its iPod line without charging a fee, which might explain why the new **Street View** is missing on the iPod touch. Look out for a bigger update soon.


Google
Howard St

Street View showing the location of 2009 Macworld Expo in San Francisco.

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Snow Leopard

Words **Jan Osborne** Illustrations **MagicTorch**

There's a new big cat on the horizon, and it's already looking sleek, powerful and strong. MacFormat takes a look at what OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard can do for you

What an incredible launch. Packed with over 300 new features, Apple's OS X 10.5 Leopard sold more than two million copies in its first weekend on sale. Steve Jobs was bullish. "Leopard's innovative features are getting great reviews and making more people than ever think about switching to the Mac," he said. But the undoubted success of Leopard caused a problem of its own. How do you top it? With OS X 10.5 so well received, how can you go one better with 10.6? The solution is as simple as it is surprising. You don't try…

The next big cat

At the Worldwide Developers Conference in June 2008, Jobs announced the follow-up to Leopard. Dubbed OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, the new operating system, which is expected in the second half of 2009, offers improved speed and performance rather than adding anything new. "We've delivered more than a thousand new features to OS X in just seven years, and Snow Leopard lays the foundation for thousands more," explained Bertrand Serlet, Apple's Senior Vice President of Software Engineering. "In our continued effort to deliver the best user experience, we hit the pause button on new features to focus on perfecting the world's most advanced operating system."

Despite the odd gripe, reaction to this move has been overwhelmingly positive. Daniel Jalkut, owner of Red Sweater Software and a former Apple engineer, says "I think it's a great idea to focus on stability over features, and doing so is probably indicative of Apple's feeling that it has reached a comfortable point in the development of OS X. For the first few years, the OS was in many ways catching up with what Mac OS 9 offered users." Kevin Ford of Mac telephony specialist Parliant agrees. "I don't feel wanting for anything in the existing OS. I'm happy to have no new features if it means better stability."

So what does that mean in real-world terms? In a nutshell, what will Snow Leopard do for Mac users? Inevitably, Apple isn't telling. "We don't comment on future products," insists Apple Europe's Director of Corporate Communications Alan Hely. Yet equally inevitably, with leaks from Apple insiders, comments from developers who have seen early versions and deductions from astute Apple watchers, we can gain an interesting insight into what we can expect next summer. So, let's take an early look at Snow Leopard.

Faster installation

Early reports say installation times are drastically improved. According to Mac review site TestMac.net, "Right off the bat, [Snow Leopard is] fast. Very fast. A clean installation took about 13 minutes from start to finish, which is a world of difference from the hour or so a clean 10.5 Leopard install takes." This is, to a large extent, due to a significant reduction in the size of the operating system and its core applications. In short, Snow Leopard boasts a much smaller footprint than its predecessor. The figures speak for ►

10 THINGS WE'D LIKE TO SEE IN SNOW LEOPARD

OS X 10.6 aims to optimise the operating system rather than add new features. Even so, there are a few improvements we'd really like to see in Snow Leopard…

[1] Improved Finder

Finder is the most criticised part of OS X, and with a Cocoa rewrite, we'd like to see it improved sooner rather than later. Check out the popular Mac application *Quicksilver* at **www.blacktree.com** to see just how much better it could be…

[2] Touchscreen compatibility

Will touchscreen monitors and laptops take off? Judging by Windows 7 Microsoft obviously thinks so, and if Redmond's new operating system creates the demand for the hardware, we hope Snow Leopard can share this functionality.

[3] More flexible trackpad gestures

So much more could be done with gestures. For example, it's been suggested that drawing an 'S' shape could save your current document or project. Better still, why not let the user record their own trackpad gestures?

[4] Better IrDA support

There are still people out there with, say, a PDA or a smartphone featuring IrDA connectivity but no Bluetooth. There are dozens of IrDA USB dongles available for Windows, but nothing for the Mac. Can't we have OS X recognise them?

[5] WiMAX out of the box

WiMAX is an important emerging wireless technology. By the time Snow Leopard is released, we hope it will be standard in MacBooks, and backed by an OS that gets the most out of it.

[6] Blu-ray support

Now the format war has been won, it's time to incorporate Blu-ray support into Mac OS. Blu-ray discs are stupidly expensive now, but so were blank DVDs when they first appeared. Apple should stay ahead of the game on this one.

[7] USB 3.0

The first commercial USB 3.0 products could arrive as early as 2009. As we're promised ten times the current bit-rate and full backwards-compatibility with USB 1.1 and 2.0, is there any reason why it shouldn't be supported in Snow Leopard?

[8] FireWire support

With the FireWire port dropped from the latest MacBooks, could Apple be phasing it out? It seems unlikely as this would stop anyone with FireWire peripherals from upgrading. But you could've said that about a FireWire-less MacBook too…

[9] Word count for TextEdit

TextEdit is getting an auto-correct function with Snow Leopard. How about a real-time word count too? OS X's built-in text editor would then reach the standard where professional journalists and copywriters, among others, simply wouldn't need any other word processor.

[10] A fair price

As Snow Leopard's improvements are almost solely architectural, we hope this is reflected in the price. It should certainly be substantially cheaper than a regular release of OS X, and maybe even a free upgrade for Leopard users.

Worldwide Developers Conference San Francisco 2008
WWDC

While rumours had been flying for some time before, Steve Jobs officially announced the follow-up to Leopard at the Worldwide Developers Conference San Francisco in June 2008.

themselves. *Mail* is down to 91MB in size, whereas before it was 287MB. *QuickTime* is now 8MB instead of 29MB, *TextEdit* has been reduced from 22MB to 2MB and the Mac OS X Utility folder has dropped from 468MB to 111.6MB. Similar size reductions are reported in other OS X applications too.

Given the reduction in the operating system's overall footprint, you won't be surprised to hear it enjoys a massive boost in speed. The word from Mac developers who received preview copies at the Worldwide Developers Conference last June is that Snow Leopard looks and feels very much like Leopard, but is noticeably speedier. It boots quicker, opens applications faster and runs more smoothly.

Grand Central

Recognising the recent sea change in processors, with multiple cores rather than clock speed driving overall performance increases, Apple has developed 'Grand Central', a collection of technologies which it claims brings "unrivalled support for multi-core systems to Mac OS X." With Snow Leopard, the entire operating system is optimised for multi-core CPUs.

Apple describes Grand Central as a "parallel-programming breakthrough" that "revolutionises the way computers deal with multi-core processors." As Steve Jobs told the *New York Times*, "The way the processor industry is going is to add more and more cores, but nobody knows how to program those things. Two, yeah. Four, not really. Eight, forget it."

With Grand Central, Snow Leopard breaks this impasse by making it far easier for developers to create third-party applications which take advantage of multiple cores. Reaction from Mac developers has been positive. "It almost makes me wish I had something to compute," quipped Daniel Jalkut. "Maybe I should write something."

Another under-the-hood feature that squeezes every last ounce of power from your Mac is OpenCL (Open Computing Language), which allows developers to "efficiently tap the vast gigaflops of computing power currently locked up in the graphics processing unit". According to Apple: "With GPUs approaching processing speeds of a trillion operations per second, they're capable of considerably more than just drawing pictures. OpenCL takes that power and redirects it for general-purpose computing."

64-bit kernel

Snow Leopard also offers OS X's first 64-bit kernel, though for older Macs, 32-bit is also supported. Today's Mac OS can run 64-bit software, but does so using a 32-bit kernel. Having a 64-bit kernel offers significant advantages for the end user. For a start, the OS can address huge amounts of installed RAM. According to Apple, Snow Leopard and the Macs of the future can enjoy "up to a theoretical 16TB, or 500 times more than what is possible today." This will make applications run faster by allowing more and

> **"It's hard to ask customers for money to upgrade to something which has few, if any, new features"**
>
> **Daniel Jalkut, Red Sweater Software**

> **“We’ve delivered more than a thousand new features to OS X, and Snow Leopard lays the foundation for thousands more”**
>
> **Bertrand Serlet, Apple**

more data to be stored in RAM, which is much quicker to access than the hard drive.

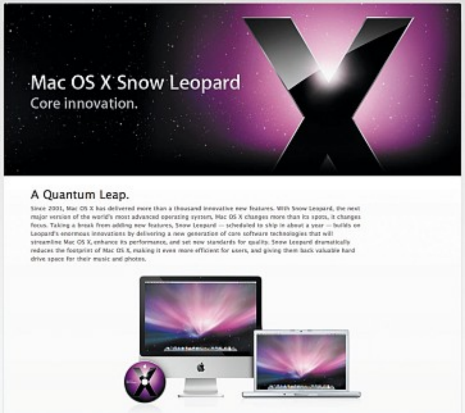
In the past, OS X’s *Finder* has come in for considerable criticism. As it’s one of the oldest parts of Mac OS, and is currently written in Apple’s Carbon application programming interface (API), it’s long overdue a make-over, and that’s exactly what it’s getting in Snow Leopard. The new *Finder* is written entirely in Apple’s more up-to-date API, Cocoa, which the company has been encouraging developers to switch to over the last few years. There aren’t any drastic changes in the user interface, but streamlining *Finder* in Cocoa makes for a more robust, less bug-prone environment which provides a solid base for an expanded range of features.

Jeff Gaynard, MacSpeech’s head of engineering and product development, sees the single API focus as a good thing. “Apple put so many great APIs out there with Leopard that developers haven’t had a chance to fully take advantage of them yet,” he said.

Exchange integration

One of the few new features offered by Snow Leopard sees *Address Book*, *Mail* and *iCal* benefit from integration with Microsoft Exchange servers. Apple had already licensed the Exchange ActiveSync protocol for the iPhone, but now it’s coming to the Mac too. This is great news for businesses that use Macs alongside PCs on an Exchange server. Now Mac users can sync their calendars, contacts and email and also access them away from the office. Although not particularly relevant to the home user, these features will do much to boost the adoption of Macs by businesses and organisations.

OS X’s notepad application *TextEdit* also gets a new feature. From 10.6, it’s to benefit from text auto-correction, whereby commonly mistyped or misspelt words are corrected on the fly.



A Quantum Leap.

Since 2001, Mac OS X has delivered more than a thousand innovative new features. With Snow Leopard, the next major version of the world's most advanced operating system, Mac OS X changes more than its spots, it changes focus. Taking a break from adding new features, Snow Leopard — scheduled to ship in about a year — builds on Leopard's enormous innovations by delivering a new generation of core software technologies that will streamline Mac OS X, enhance its performance, and set new standards for quality. Snow Leopard dramatically reduces the footprint of Mac OS X, making it even more efficient for users, and giving them back valuable hard drive space for their music and photos.

Head over to **www.apple.com/macosx/snowleopard** for more on Apple’s new OS.

Interestingly, developer preview builds of Snow Leopard also include the forthcoming *Safari 4*, which lets you turn a website into a standalone web application at the push of a button. This isn’t merely a bookmark, but a standalone application saved out as a .APP in Mac OS and a .EXE using the Windows version of *Safari*. Neither work without an internet connection, though storing a cached version of the site should be possible. *Safari 4* also offers ‘the fastest implementation of JavaScript ever’, which Apple claims boosts performance ‘by 53%, making Web 2.0 applications feel more responsive.’ Not strictly Snow Leopard features, but a tantalising glimpse of what’s around the corner…

ImageBoot

Back to the OS proper, Snow Leopard also boasts a new feature called ImageBoot. Based on the Mac’s NetBoot facility which enables it to boot from a disc stored remotely on a network, with ImageBoot, you can boot your system from a disc image stored on any internal or external drive. At present, you can only have one bootable OS X installation on a single disc partition, but Snow Leopard enables you to store as many as you like. This is ideal for test environments, enabling you to quickly reboot under different configurations of the operating system or carry your own configuration around with you.

QuickTime X uses technologies developed for the iPhone, and according to Apple, “optimises support for modern codecs and more efficient media playback.” Again, we shouldn’t expect any dramatic changes to the user experience, but a significant boost in performance is on the cards, with the new version of *QuickTime* taking advantage of Grand Central technology to utilise the power of multi-core machines as well as OpenCL to work the GPU harder.

Requirements and pricing

But what sort of a Mac will you need to run Snow Leopard? No one at Apple is saying, but you can bet your last quid it will be Intel-only. While Carbon is designed to offer backwards-compatibility with PowerPC-based Macs, Cocoa most certainly isn’t, and so a *Finder* written in Cocoa just can’t be run on a pre-Intel Mac. And given the massive reduction in size of OS X and its applications, what could possibly be coming out if it’s not the PPC code?

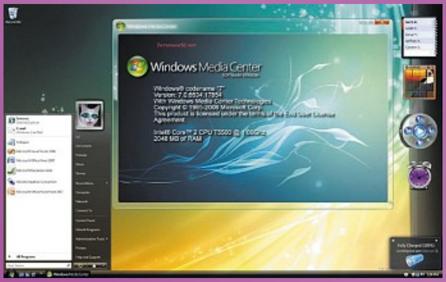
There’s no word on Snow Leopard’s price, but we hope it’s at a level that encourages upgrading. As Daniel Jalkut of Red Sweater Software put it, “Pricing is difficult, because it’s hard to ask customers for money to upgrade to something which has few, if any, new features. I won’t be surprised if Apple releases the update as a free upgrade, or charges very little. Remember, it will come with all new Macs from the day it is available.” Wise words… ●

WINDOWS 7: WATCHING THE OPPOSITION…

With Vista failing to capture the imagination of PC users, it seems Microsoft is to take Windows in a similar direction that Apple’s going with Snow Leopard. The Redmond-based company promises the next version of its operating system, currently codenamed ‘Windows 7’, will concentrate on performance improvements and better connectivity.

We’re told the much-criticised bloat that seriously hampered Vista is gone, with the new OS offering a sleeker, less cumbersome user experience. Microsoft is concentrating on cloud computing too, with users able to synchronise multiple computers over the internet, just like Mac users already can with MobileMe.

Perhaps the most interesting new feature in Windows 7 – and arguably the only one Apple didn’t think of first – is its touchscreen capabilities. Honed on the Microsoft Surface tabletop-format device, this feature allows users to manipulate images and menus by touching their laptop or desktop screen. At the time of writing, Windows 7 is due in late 2009 or early 2010, which is later than Snow Leopard. When asked whether the next Mac OS will make Windows 7 look dated, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer insisted their new operating system would be “fantastic”, regardless of what Apple puts out. “There’s a lot in Windows 7, and our goal is to produce fantastic PCs with our hardware partners,” he said. Of course, we’ve heard this kind of hype before, so Microsoft will really have to deliver this time.



Microsoft is set to cut the bloat from Vista and concentrate on performance and connectivity instead, much like Apple and its Snow Leopard aims.

SHOULD YOU UPGRADE?

Mac OS X Leopard

Of course, the key question is whether it’s worth splashing out on Snow Leopard. With no new features on offer, why invest in an upgrade if you’re perfectly happy with 10.5?

Alas, it’s far too early decide. With no system requirements, no official guidelines on expected performance improvements and no pricing information, it’s impossible to say whether Snow Leopard will be worth your money. We’ll bring you a more definitive answer nearer the time, but we’re already very excited. Putting a hold on new features to concentrate on stability and performance sounds like an excellent idea, and remember what Bertrand Serlet said; “Snow Leopard lays the foundation for thousands more [features].” Remember too, unless you’ve a pressing need to be an early adopter (in which case the question about whether or not to upgrade is somewhat moot), there’s nothing to stop you waiting for Version 10.6.2 or 10.6.3 before upgrading, allowing Apple’s engineers time to fix any bugs and glitches present at launch – assuming there are any this time round.

Q&A

Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

This issue, Luis Villazon rips DVDs for iTunes playback, deactivates a keen AirPort and kills a Mac virus myth

QUICK TIP

Turn off Sharing

Improve network security by making sure that all user accounts on your Mac have all the **Sharing** services turned off in *System Preferences*, except for the ones they need.

REINSTALLING TIGER ON POWERBOOK G4

Q **I have a G4 PowerBook and when I bought it, about four years ago, it was running OS X 10.3.4. I need to repair its startup disc, but since I've owned it there have been automatic upgrades to OS X 10.3, plus I've installed AirPort Express, as well as having upgraded to Tiger.**

Does this mean that if after the repair I simply re-install Tiger, all the changes that have taken place since the original startup disc will be automatically taken care of, leaving only the updates to Tiger for me to deal with?

Peter Kirman

A Tiger upgrade to your Panther OS will require the original CD for verification purposes only.

A All the system updates prior to Tiger are irrelevant. The only reason you need the Panther disc at all is because your copy of Tiger is an upgrade licence and it will require the Panther disc during reinstallation. But this is just for verification purposes – it won't actually install any of 10.3. When it's done, you'll be left with a clean install of Tiger and then *Software Update* will download all the patches that are needed to take you to 10.4.11, which is the last version for Tiger.

NO PDF HYPERLINKS USING WORD

Q **I was talking to Christopher Phin at the recent MacExpo in London and he suggested I contact you concerning a problem I'm having with preparing PDF documents. When I take a document prepared in *Word 2008* for Mac and try to make a PDF out of it from *Acrobat 8*, the hyperlinks, including the Table of Contents links, no longer function. I paid a lot of money for this Mac software and am furious it doesn't work, given my clunky old PC at work (running *Acrobat 7* and *Word 2003* on Windows XP) does this perfectly.**

I've approached both Adobe and Microsoft over this issue and neither party can provide a clear explanation as to exactly what the problem is and how to fix it. The *NeoOffice* alternative is not viable for me either as it disrupts the headers/footers I've created in *Word*.

Dr Damon S Jack

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from MacWarehouse

PRAM A LAM A DING-DONG

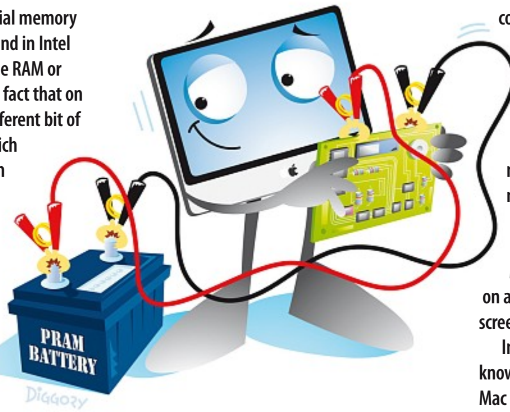
Most of the time, when you make a change to a setting on your Mac, it will be stored in a file on disk from where it can be accessed any time that your Mac needs it. Even if you were to put the Mac into **Target Disk** mode and boot another Mac up from it, you would retain the setting.

Some settings on your Mac are stored in memory rather than being written to disk, and to stop then getting lost when your Mac is switched off, or when your portable's battery runs down, this small chunk of memory has its own dedicated battery. This is the case for all Macs apart from the iBooks and the PowerBook G4 12-inch, which use their main portable battery to keep this chunk of memory alive.

In PowerPC-based Macs this special memory is called Parameter RAM, or PRAM, and in Intel based ones it's known as Non-Volatile RAM or NVRAM. Complicating matters is the fact that on PowerPC based Macs there was a different bit of memory, also known as NVRAM, which looked after settings specific to Open Firmware. But in order to save confusion between the two different types of NVRAM I'm going to stick to the old name, PRAM.

Under Mac OS X a lot less information is stored in PRAM than was the case with Mac OS 9. Although certain models vary, the core things that are contained in PRAM are the display settings, speaker volume, date and time, time zone and which volume the Mac is set to boot from. If you're experiencing odd behaviour with any of these then it may either be a sign that the PRAM battery needs to be replaced or, more likely, that you need to reset the PRAM itself. Another sign of issues with PRAM is if you suffer any of the following when trying to start your Mac: you hear a startup chime but nothing on appears on the screen, or you get a black screen and the Mac's fans are running at full tilt.

In order to reset the PRAM on your Mac, also known as zapping it, you first need to shut your Mac down. For PowerPC-based Macs it's fine to



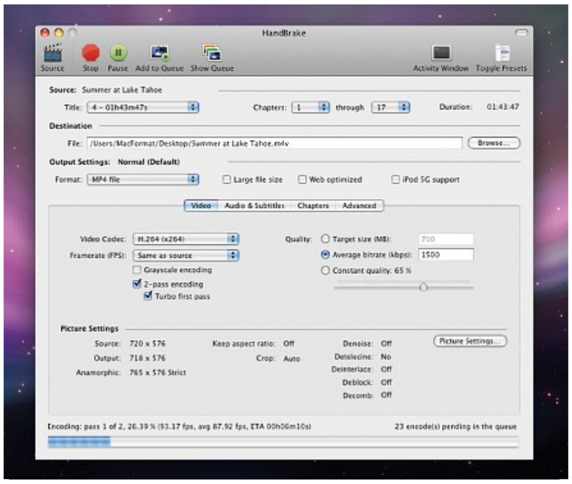
A The very simple and clear explanation for this behaviour is that it's a bug in *Word*. You can create hyperlinked documents in *Pages* or *OpenOffice.org* and the links will be preserved when you export to PDF. But if you do it in *Word* then they don't work. I don't think it works in *NeoOffice* either, as a matter of fact, so there's no point agonising over your headers and footers. Sometimes the links will work correctly when the PDF is opened with *Acrobat Reader* but they won't when it's opened with *Preview*.

Software is one of those strange products that's not guaranteed to work and no software with more than ten lines of code is ever bug-free. This is a well publicised bug now, so it's fairly certain that Microsoft will fix it at some point. But if it takes an age, it may just get rolled into the next version of *Word* and hyped as a feature – "now with *working* hyperlinks!"

Don't despair, though. I've done a little testing, and it looks as if *Nitro PDF Professional* might save you from waiting on the MS bug fixers. This will cost you $99 (which will probably be £99 at the current exchange rate, by the time you read this) but you can test the trial version for free (**www.nitropdf.com**).

HOW DO I COPY DVDS ONTO MY MAC?

Q I have all my CD collection on an external hard drive and play them back through *iTunes,* and I decided to see if I could do the same with DVDs, when I realised that I don't know how to. I've managed to extract a Video_TS file from a DVD and have it on my desktop but am unable to manipulate it into a form that I can watch on my Intel iMac. I have *Toast, iDVD, VLC, WMV Player*, *MPEG Streamclip*, and *DivX Converter & Player*. Do I need any extra software to perform the transfer?
Leonard



Source: Summer at Lake Tahoe
Title: 4 – 01h43m47s
Chapters: 1 through 17
Duration: 01:43:47
Destination
File: /Users/MacFormat/Desktop/Summer at Lake Tahoe.m4v
Output Settings: Normal (Default)
Format: MP4 file
☐ Large file size ☐ Web optimized ☐ iPod 5G support
Video Codec: H.264 (x264)
Framerate (FPS): Same as source
☐ Grayscale encoding
☑ 2-pass encoding
☑ Turbo first pass
Quality: ○ Target size (MB): 700
● Average bitrate (kbps): 1500
○ Constant quality: 65 %
Picture Settings
Source: 720 x 576
Output: 718 x 576
Anamorphic: 765 x 576 Strict
Keep aspect ratio: Off
Crop: Auto
Denoise: Off
Detelecine: No
Deinterlace: Off
Deblock: Off
Decomb: Off
Encoding: pass 1 of 2, 26.39 % (93.17 fps, avg 87.92 fps, ETA 00h06m10s)
23 encode(s) pending in the queue

Get hold of the free *Handbrake* software to reliably rip DVDs you've ceated yourself.

A DVDs are encoded as MPEG-2 and if you try opening one as if it were a DVD-ROM, you will see a Video_TS folder and, as you have discovered, hardly any software knows what to do with such a beast. The audio equivalent of this would be to try and copy the audio data directly off a music CD. Of course, this is nowadays such a common activity that we all know we should actually *rip* the CD to convert the raw audio into MP3 files. With video, the same thing applies. You rip the disc and convert the MPEG-2 into MP4 files and thereafter *iTunes* will play them just fine.

There are lots of DVD ripping programs available. For ripping movies to get them onto *iTunes*, you want *Handbrake* (**http://handbrake.fr**). Not least because it's free and open source. Don't forget that it is illegal to rip copyright protected DVDs onto your Mac in the UK, even as a backup copy. Only rip DVDs of material you've created.

TURNING OFF WIFI ON A MACBOOK

Q I'm using a MacBook running OS X 10.4.10. Sometimes I get an untitled window opening at boot time or on wake-from-sleep with the message "None of your trusted wireless networks can be found. Do you want to join the network called [the name quoted changes randomly]?" What is doing this and can I stop it? I have no need for WiFi internet access.
Robert Sproat

A You can turn wireless networking off very easily. Right-click the **AirPort** icon on the menu bar and select **Turn AirPort Off**. There is also a button to do this in **Network Preferences**. The error message you're seeing occurs because AirPort is enabled but not signed in to any network. Whenever one of your neighbours has their wireless network on, your MacBook will pick it up and offer to connect to it for you. Once you've disabled AirPort, it will stay disabled on successive reboots until you say otherwise.

DO I NEED TO BACK UP MY iMAC?

Q I'm getting one of the new iMacs (the base model) with Leopard on it and considering it's my first Mac, do I ▶

QUICK TIP

Disable login programs

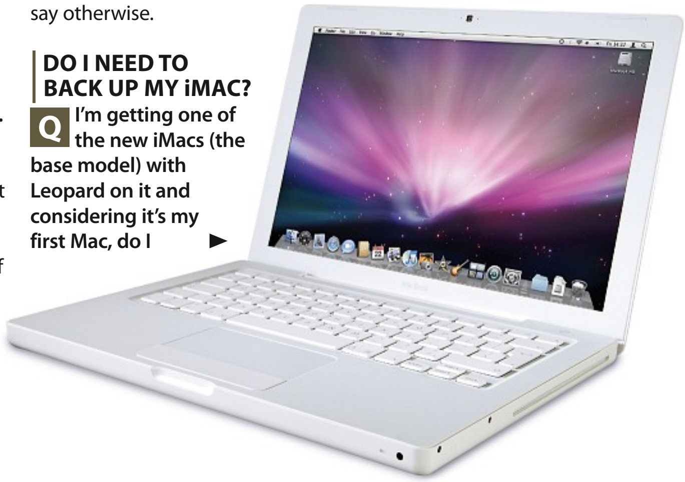
If you hold the ⇧ key down as OS X logs in, the login programs won't start. These are usually system utilities that display an icon on the menu bar. Disabling them can be helpful for troubleshooting.

QUICK TIP

Reorder menu bar icons

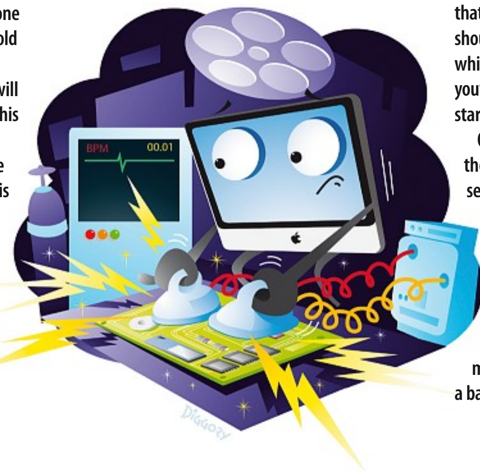
You can shuffle the order of most of the icons on the right-hand side of your menu bar by holding ⌘ as you left-drag the icon.

Your MacBook's WiFi is on the lookout for wireless networks by default.



simply reboot the Mac, but with an Intel-based one you have to power it off. Then power it on and hold down ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] before the grey screen appears. Keep the keys held down and the Mac will reboot itself. The official line from Apple is that this is enough. However, I usually wait until the Mac has rebooted three times before letting go of the keyboard. I can't find any evidence to support this bit of voodoo apart from "it's always worked for me". Once you've let go of the keys your Mac should reboot from its default startup device, which is usually the internal hard drive.

If you have a software RAID volume, the Mac may not boot once you've cleared the PRAM, and so you'll need to hold down the ⌥ key as soon as the final reboot has happened in order that you can select the boot device on screen. If this shouldn't work for some reason restart the Mac while holding down ⌘+⇧+⌥+[Delete]. Once you've successfully booted you should then set your startup volume in *System Preferences*.



Once you've reset your PRAM, go back and reset the settings mentioned earlier. If these don't stay set then you may need a new PRAM battery. For most desktops it's easy to change the battery, and a replacement such as a Maxell ER3STC, used in older Macs, or a CR2032 as used in Mac Pros, should cost a few pounds online. Have a look at **www.ifixit.com** – this site lists all sorts of replacement Mac parts, and while it might be US based, the overseas postal charge for a battery should be negligible.

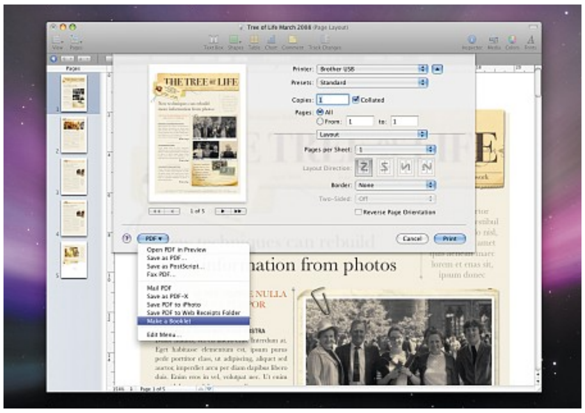
Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse
www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Keychain Access

A safe place to store important info and private thoughts on your Mac is in your keychain. Go to Applications > Utilities > Keychain Access and add a secure note.

Use the free *CocoaBooklet* to print an A4 document from any program you like.



Printer: Brother USB
Presets: Standard
Copies: 1 ☑ Collated
Pages: ● All
○ From: 1 to: 1
Layout
Pages per Sheet: 1
Border: None
Two-Sided: Off
☐ Reverse Page Orientation

need a backup of it? If I do, what would be a good size disk to go for, comparing it to the iMac's hard drive (250GB)? Also, can you recommend a good long-lasting one? I've read mixed reviews of MyBook Pros and I don't know about the whole Maxtor/Seagate thing, so any help you can give me is welcome.

Also, at school we're starting to learn about programming. As we use *True BASIC* and I've found *Just BASIC* to work on my home PC, can you recommend any similar free BASIC programs?

Ryan Adam

A First Mac or last, everyone needs a backup. With the arrival of *Time Machine* in Leopard, it's now actually *impossible* to find an excuse for not backing up. The MyBook Pro is fine; I have two. Most of the people who don't like them are just being silly and looking for problems to make their group test seem balanced. I don't know about the Maxtor/Seagate thing either, so let's not worry about it. You need a disk at least as big as your hard disk, but you may as well go for one around 50% bigger because disk space is super-cheap and this will let you keep lots of different versions of the files that change most, which are usually the ones you're most likely to lose.

Time Machine means there will never again be a good reason not to back up.

For BASIC, try *Chipmunk BASIC* (**www.nicholson.com/rhn/basic**) or *FutureBASIC 4* (**www.stazsoftware.com**) both of which are free. However, please tell your teacher from me that BASIC is a *terrible* teaching language. It is weakly typed with little or no exception handling and encourages very sloppy programming habits that will take years to unlearn. Pascal is a much better programming language to learn as your first, and once you have learned all the fundamentals in Pascal, learning BASIC is a snap.

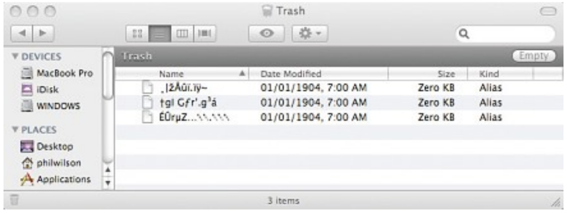
PRINTING PROBLEMS WITH PAGES

Q **I recently upgraded my *iWork* to the '08 package, hoping for better quality of apps than are currently being offered by Windows. I had always been led to believe that Apple was at the forefront of DTP and presumed that even its entry-level *Pages* would be up to scratch. I recently needed to produce an A5 booklet, so I duly looked through the templates in *Pages* and found something that seemed to be the right template. To my horror, when it came to printing out the booklet there was no way of getting it to print the pages correctly – no amount of toggling Correlate could persuade it to print them out in the right order. I found myself seeking advice at some forum sites only to find that in order to get *Pages* to do what I need, I'm going to have to download an additional piece of non-Apple software, and cut and paste! Yuck, that's just why I gave up on PCs.**

As for *Numbers*, it's fine if you're doing only the most basic of accounts, but anything that requires co-ordinating more than one account seems beyond it. I'm afraid that I might have to go back to *Excel* and wait for the next version of *Numbers* to grow up a bit.

David Leaf

A *Pages* won't produce A5 booklets by itself, it's true, but I think "horror" might be a going a little bit far. We dealt very satisfactorily with this



Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
_I2ÅûI.ÿ~	01/01/1904, 7:00 AM	Zero KB	Alias
†gl Gƒr'.g³á	01/01/1904, 7:00 AM	Zero KB	Alias
ÉÛrµZ…\\\.\\\	01/01/1904, 7:00 AM	Zero KB	Alias

If you have a file in your Trash that you're unable to delete, it could well be a Windows file.

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

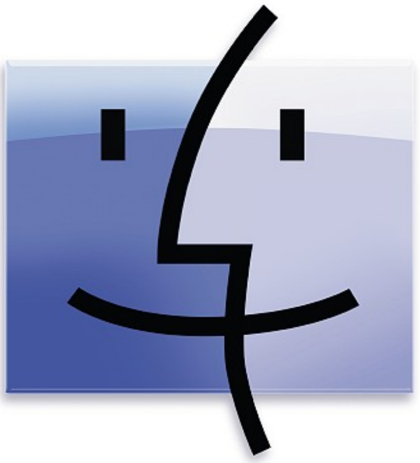
FILES IN FINDER NOT SHOWING PREVIEWS

Finder has the option to view file previews and thumbnails, which can be seen both in the document itself as well as the **Get Info** window for documents. However, for some users, documents that should display a preview are instead showing a generic document icon.

Apple Discussions poster Vintuitive writes: "I almost always have my folder view set as thumbnail view so that I can see the images without having to open them in *Preview*. I just realised that I can no longer do that for some reason. Instead of seeing a thumbnail I see large JPEG icons. Even loading them into **Cover Flow** doesn't show them, it just shows the default icons instead."

While this problem might be most noticeable for pictures, it might also occur for other documents including movie files and PDFs. This issue can be caused by several factors, including the changing of the default application used to view the files as well as a change in some *Finder* settings for previewing the documents. Users affected by this might try the following to correct it.

Ensure **Finder Show Preview** options are checked. If the problem seems to be with documents in a specific folder or on the Desktop, it may be that the view settings for that folder have been reverted. The default options for folders are to have document previews visible, but corruption in the .DS_Store file that contains these settings might prevent the previews from being enabled. For the affected folder, you should ensure it's in the foreground as the active window, and then from *Finder's* **View** menu select **Show view options.** Then select the option to **Show icon preview** and close the options window.



Change the default application for the item(s). *Finder* uses *Preview* to help render certain documents, including image files and PDFs. If users have switched the primary handling applications for these document types to a third-party program, it's possible that this switch could be interfering with

DISPLAY ADAPTOR | The philosopher's axe

Q On the recommendation of *MacFormat* issue 182, a few days ago I bought an HP L23045w 20-inch monitor, to replace the old and failed CRT monitor I used for ten years with my Power Mac 7300/500 operating with Mac OS 9.1. The 7300 CPU was upgraded to a G3 running at 500Hz some years ago. The cable supplied with the L2045w has a DVI-D connector on each end, so it doesn't fit the monitor port of the 7300. I need to install a DVI graphics card in my Mac for connecting to the L2045w's cable. The 7300 has two unused PCI slots (standard 2.0).

From web searches, I've found several likely DVI graphics cards (Belkin and Radeon, to name two), which seem to be compatible with the 7300, but all require OS 9.2, which the 7300 can't be upgraded to.

Please would you advise what DVI graphics card is available to make my trustworthy 7300 compatible with the new monitor.

Kenneth Watkins

A The restriction on OS 9.2 only relates to the 604e processor. If you've already upgraded to a G3 then technically you could run 9.2. But, to be frank, your system was obsolete five years ago and I'm really not sure I can recommend you travel any further down this road. Don't get me wrong – I love obsolete computers; my house is full of them. But I believe that you should keep them running their original hardware and software as much as possible. Trying to add modern peripherals to such an old Mac is like botoxing a rhinoceros. If you really want to keep your 7300 going, you can still buy analogue LCD monitors on eBay. This would get you out of the inevitable spiral of upgrading that's going to see you gradually replacing your entire Mac piece at a time.

Actually, there is a graphics card that would suit your needs perfectly. It's called a Mac mini. £399 buys you a system roughly ten times faster than your PowerPC.

Sometimes it's more practical to get a new Mac altogether rather than struggling to upgrade your old one.

issue in *MacFormat* issue 194, so we already have a much neater way to handle it than cutting and pasting (though, for the record, I don't regard cut and paste as particularly onerous). *CocoaBooklet* (free from **www.iconus.ch/fabien/cocoabooklet**) installs as a PDF service so you can print an A4 document from any application you like. Click the **PDF** button on the **Print** dialog and instead of selecting the **Save as PDF** option, choose **Make a booklet**. You can produce A5 or A6 booklets in a variety of layouts.

For spreadsheets, I agree, once you're used to *Excel*, it's very hard to settle for anything less. But *OpenOffice.org* or *NeoOffice* are both free and as close to *Excel* as makes no difference.

DOES MY MAC HAVE A VIRUS?

Q I have been using *NeoOffice* for a while now and generally I'm pleased with it. The only downside is the time it takes to load the program. I read a recent article that talked about the new version of *OpenOffice.org* for Mac and that it has additional features and loaded quickly.

I downloaded a torrent file of a beta of *OpenOffice.org 3*. Immediately I found my Mac started doing strange things and I removed the program. Unfortunately I found three small files that had appeared. I put them in the Trash and tried to delete them, to no effect. I tried secure deleting – again, no good. I tried going into Get Info for one of these stray files – the Get Info window opens momentarily then vanishes. The file is gone from the Trash, but open the Trash and all three are back. My Trash can doesn't show empty, no matter what I do. The files are labelled 'alias' with an okay size and a date of 1/1/1904.

I'm aware that beta versions often still have bugs, but could it be that the torrent was in some way infected? I have repaired the permissions on my Mac, run *ClamX* and *DiskWarrior*.

Phil Wilson

A There aren't many inviolable rules in the ever-changing world of computer troubleshooting, but one bedrock upon which you can confidently rely is this: it is never a virus. This is true even next door in the Windows troubleshooting office, and those boys actually *have* viruses. How much more true must it be for a platform that has hardly any malware in the wild? There is a tendency to blame viruses for any computer behaviour that we can't explain, much like medieval peasants would blame natural phenomena on devils. But real viruses don't do any of the things that they're blamed for. This undeletable file is a Windows file. ►

QUICK TIP

Eject all volumes

You can eject or unmount all the volumes on a drive at once by holding down the ⌥ key when you click the [Eject] button for that drive.

Finder's handling of the previews. Users can try reverting file types back to using *Preview* by getting information on one, and then changing the application associated with the file in the drop-down menu. Then optionally, clicking **Change All...** will ensure the changes are global instead of pertaining to the selected file only.

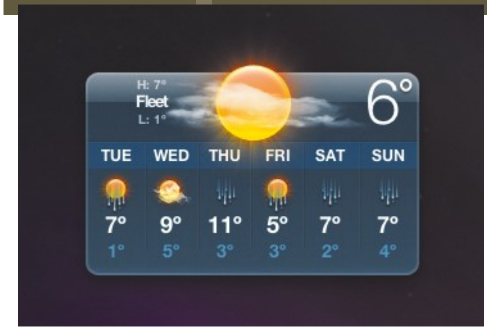
FINDER WINDOWS CHANGING SIZE AND LOCATION UPON CLOSING AND REOPENING

Mac OS X's placement of windows is determined by the .DS_Store files that are located within each folder in the system. When users change window size and location, placement information is stored in the .DS_Store file that's in the current folder being resized. This can be confusing to some users, because in most view modes the same window is used to show the contents of the opened folders. As such, if a user changes the size of a window with the Desktop being viewed, new windows may be in different locations because they are referencing a different .DS_Store file. Despite this default behaviour, users may encounter bizarre window sizing behaviour when returning to certain folders.

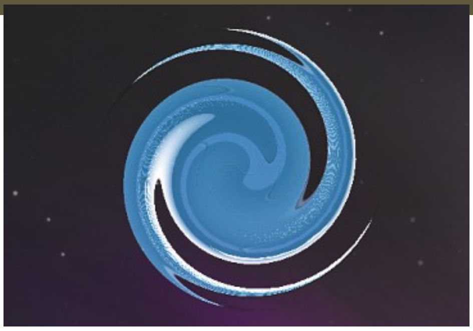
Apple Discussions poster Kevin Liu writes: "I find that randomly, *Finder* windows default to the tiny size in the centre of the display. This happens randomly and as yet I haven't been able to see a pattern."

This issue is most likely caused by the .DS_Store file in a specific folder becoming either inaccessible or corrupt. To check for accessibility, open *Terminal* and type **ls -la** (including the space after **-la**). Next, drag the folder that displays the odd window behaviour into the **Terminal** window to enter its full path to the terminal so the command looks like **ls -la /path/to/folder**. Next, press [Enter] to execute the command and the first set of characters next to the line that ends with '.DS_Store' should be '-rw-r--r--@'. This indicates the file is writable and readable by the owner, and only readable by everyone else. If the file doesn't have these permissions, then change them with the following

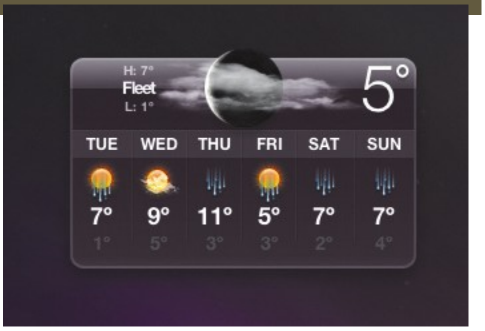
STEP BY STEP Fix locked-up Dashboard widgets



01 It's pretty rare for anything to go wrong with *Dashboard* widgets, but, like anything to do with computers, they're not perfect. Occasionally, you may find that a widget crashes or locks up, becoming entirely non-responsive or refusing to update live-feed information, such as weather reports or stock fluctuations.



02 Although restarting the Dock via *Terminal* should deal with this problem, that solution is overkill to reboot a single widget. Instead, click on the relevant widget to focus it and press ⌘+[R]. The widget will then do a quick animation, spinning into itself while it restarts.



03 When the widget returns to life (the entire process typically only takes about half a second), it should no longer be locked up, and should be providing the latest feed information (when relevant). Unfortunately, though, a refresh of a widget doesn't make the cold winter weather go away… ●

QUICK TIP

Always Open With option

⌥ If you hold down ⌥ when the right-click context menu is displayed for a file in *Finder*, the **Open With** menu item changes into **Always Open With**. This lets you permanently change the application bound to this document so that it will be opened when you double-click the file.

I believe you're running Windows, with *Boot Camp* or *Parallels*. There's a folder on your Windows partition called **\Windows\.Trashes\501** and if you use the FAT32 filing system so that OS X can access the **Windows** folder, you can get a corrupted File Allocation Table entry in the **Windows 501** folder that will look like a zero-byte alias file from *Finder*. The solution is to boot into Windows and run *chkdsk* on that volume from the command line. This will fix the FAT and the weird alias should melt into the mist.

EXCEL HAS DESTROYED MY DATA!

Q **I've discovered a serious issue in *Excel 2008* that means I shouldn't use it at all, otherwise I could risk destroying company data. The rest of the company uses Windows. Whenever I try to open a certain *Excel* document created using *Office 2007* I get this message from *Excel*: 'This workbook contains content not supported by Excel 2008 for Mac – more than two data filter criteria'.**

I'm given the option to open it in read-only mode, which I do. This is bad enough. I thought there was complete compatibility between the Mac and Windows versions. But what happens next is worse, to say the least. When I close the document, it's deleted! Not even put into the Trash. It just disappears from the face of the earth. I was very lucky to be able to recover the deleted document the first time this happened. I made a copy of it and have tried this several times now. Every time I close *Excel* with this document open, it's deleted. For every new version of *Office* I've tested it, and it hasn't been fixed so far. I've searched the internet for answers but have found nothing. I posted it on the Microsoft forums and got no answer. I sent feedback to Microsoft but they don't answer that and there was no way to send the file to them. I've removed all content except for the headers and renamed the file but the problem is still the same. So far this is the only file that I've had this problem with, so that's another clue that it might be a rare problem, but nevertheless a serious one!

Knut Støre

A This sort of weirdness is possible with any application that accepts input. In general terms, the input data is structured in such a way that it gets accidentally interpreted as executable code, rather than data. Your problem only affects a single file and so I'm inclined to believe that this is a corruption in this specific file, rather than a more systemic problem with *Excel* itself. The fix for file corruptions of this kind is always to strip out as much of the metadata as you can. Export your spreadsheet to a

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

command:

```
sudo chmod u=rw,go=r /path/to/folder/.DS_Store
```

Alternatively, users should be able to delete the problematic .DS_Store file and have *Finder* recreate it. To do this, enter the following command into *Terminal*:

```
sudo rm /path/to/folder/.DS_Store
```

(In this command the **/path/to/folder/** is the same as previously found when users dragged the folder to the **Terminal** window.)

iCAL AND MOBILEME CALENDARS HAVE SHIFTED TIMES

Some users have reported a problem wherein calendar event times shifted by an hour or so, resulting in inconsistencies between *iCal* and MobileMe calendars. We previously suggested that users check the system's time zone and reset the calendar sync data through the MobileMe *System Preferences*. In addition, it appeared that this problem was related to the use of **Time Zone Support** in both *iCal* and MobileMe, and recommendations were to uncheck these settings in the calendar applications. It seems this problem has also been prevalent with iPhone users and has been fixed by users turning off time zone support in the iPhone calendar app. In the time zone, go to the **General** settings and choose **Date & Time** then select the option to turn on **Time Zone Support**.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

CANON HD VIDEO LENS
10x ZOOM 6.1-61mm 1:1.8 ⌀43
START/STOP
FOCUS ASSIST

iMovie doesn't directly support the AVCHD format common to many high definition video cameras, but there are ways round this.

comma-separated value (CSV) file. This is just a text file with no macros or hidden codes. You can then re-import the file to *Excel* and put your formatting back in, this time without the file corruption.

HUGE VIDEO FILES WHEN CONVERTING

Q My recently purchased HDD video camera produces AVCHD files which, when imported into *iMovie*, get converted into huge files. A single hour of HD recording produces a 40GB file! Is there some way to import AVCHD files into *iMovie* without the resulting space overhead? If not, then I propose to use an external hard disk to cater for my huge *iMovie* files, but is there some way in which *Time Machine* can recognise and back up these *iMovie* files on the external disk?

Karl Grant

A AVCHD is the high-definition standard designed for the new generation of video cameras that support 780p, 1080i or 1080p. The files are always going to be larger than regular camcorder files because the resolution is much higher, but that only accounts for some of the bloat you're seeing. A much bigger factor is that *iMovie* doesn't directly support the AVCHD format, so it has to convert it to Apple Intermediate Codec (AIC) format before it can create a MOV file. AIC has inherently lower file compression so you'll typically see files inflate by a factor of five between the camera and *iMovie*.

You can avoid this if you create a disk image slightly larger than the size of your camera's hard disk and copy the AVCHD files directly off the camera and onto the disk image. You can then mount this image on the desktop and *iMovie* can work with the files directly – just as if the camera was still connected. The disadvantage of this is that *iMovie* will suck up more CPU effort when editing video in AVCHD format, so it may run a little slower.

If you want to put your disk images on a separate disk, you can back them up quite easily. *Time machine* will automatically add external disks to the 'Do not back up' list in *System Preferences* but you can remove your video backup disk if you want.

WHERE'S MY SCANNER?

Q I use *Photoshop Elements 6* and a Canon MP510 printer/scanner, which work perfectly together so long as the printer/scanner is plugged into the iMac USB port. However, when the printer/scanner is plugged into the *Time Machine* disk's port, *Photoshop* cannot find the scanner. The cable's connected and I've downloaded all the latest Canon drivers. The iMac and MP510 work together okay when printing documents via the *Time Machine*.

Tony Wickes

A It's probably caused by lower voltages on the USB bus further down the chain. In general, the reliability of a USB device decreases the further away from the motherboard ports it is. It's hard to believe, but I've got some peripherals that don't even like being plugged into the extension ports on the front of a computer.

Canon specifically advises that you plug their devices into the motherboard USB ports. However you may be able to jolt *Photoshop* into recognising the MP510 if you do the following.

1. Unplug the connecting USB cable from the scanner and the computer.
2. Turn the computer itself off completely.
3. While the scanner power is still on, unplug the power cable from the unit.
4. Lock and unlock the scanner several times, finally leaving the scanner in the unlocked position.
5. Now turn your computer back on.
6. Wait about 15 seconds and plug the power cable back into the scanner, then plug this directly into an electrical socket.
7. Once your computer has fully booted, reconnect the USB cable and try scanning something again. ●

Some USB devices will refuse to function unless plugged directly into your Mac.

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q I've been given use of a Maxtor 750GB external hard drive, which is in FAT 32 format. However, it won't let me re-format it through *Disk Utility* as Mac-journaled, giving me a failed message instead. Should it be possible to reformat it and am I doing anything wrong?

Lorimer Joined: 15 Apr 2004 Posts: 127 Location: Guildford, Surrey

A You should be able to reformat the Maxtor hard drive, no problem. I would connect the hard drive and open up *Disk Utility* and choose the Maxtor drive, the first in the list. It will probably show up as 74x GB then a string of letters and numbers, which needs to be erased. When you choose **Erase** there should be options for the format that you want the drive to be in.

sdudla Joined: 26 Jun 2005 Posts: 568 Location: North West Scotland

Q Attached to my MacBook I have an Iomega MiniMax 750GB External Hard Drive. It's connected using the FireWire connection and the disk contains the majority of my music. As soon as I switch on the MacBook this message comes up: "The disk you have inserted was not readable by this computer." I changed the connection to USB and the same message comes up. I know the hard drive is working as I can see the disk light. Is this repairable or do I need a new hard drive. If so, is there a way of transferring the data onto the new drive?

stevo120665 Joined: 21 Nov 2008 Posts: 6 Location: Sutton Coldfield

A Launch *Disk Utility* and if the device shows up in the list, select it and click the **Verify Disk** button to check for errors. I'd be wary of repairing it unless you have a backup of the data elsewhere, but if there's no other way then click the **Repair Disk** button. There's a slight risk of data loss with any repair.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 1331 Location: Manchester

A The other possibility is that the internal drive is actually okay but the internal interface/electronics of the drive is corrupted/dying. I got the same message on an old LaCie D2 drive, so continued with *DiskWarrior*, but after not getting anywhere with it I cracked the case open and put the drive in a spare enclosure I had lying around. The drive worked fine.

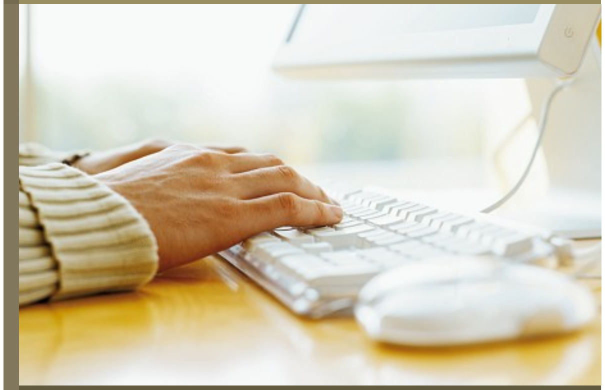
Future-Echoes Joined: 21 Jun 2003 Posts: 5748 Location: Essex

Q I can't find the way to switch off syncing of my iPhone with MobileMe. I want to sync the iPhone with my office Mac and with my home Mac, but not with MobileMe. Just switching off the MobileMe syncing with the iPhone would probably be enough. I do want the two computers to sync with each other though, I just can't find the place to do this. *iTunes* says it can be changed on the iPhone, but the iPhone doesn't have anywhere to change anything. MobileMe has nowhere to change anything either.

SwissMac Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 5981 Location: Switzerland

A Go to Settings > Mail then you can turn off the syncing in the .Mac or MobileMe address.

James Joined: 04 May 2005 Posts: 2181 Location: North Hertfordshire



Join our forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

The essential piece of kit for today's photographer!
For more info visit www.digitalcameramagazine.co.uk

Good news! This issue we have the best new Mac hardware and software around! Kicking things off in software is the latest version 4 of *Parallels Desktop* for running Windows on your Mac, and another highlight for me is *MacSpeech Dictate*. In hardware this month we turn your world sideways with the novel i-Station Rotate from Logic3, and check out Belkin's new Switch-to-Mac – is this the final word in transitioning from Windows to Mac?

Oh, and before I forget, we've got a new Reviews Editor starting next issue. His name is Ian Osborne and he's been a technology journalist for 15 years – starting on gaming legends *Crash* and *Zzap! 64* – and more importantly a Mac fanatic since the early days. Make him feel welcome by dropping an email to **ian.osborne@futuernet.com** with any suggestions for our reviews section you may have.

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Reviews

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Our star ratings

★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★☆☆☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

VIRTUALISATION SOFTWARE

Parallels Desktop 4.0

£50 It's seconds out, round four, as Parallels Desktop aims to floor Fusion with a knockout blow

CONTACT INFO

Developer Parallels
www.parallels.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492387

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.66GHz Intel Mac, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11

FOR AND AGAINST

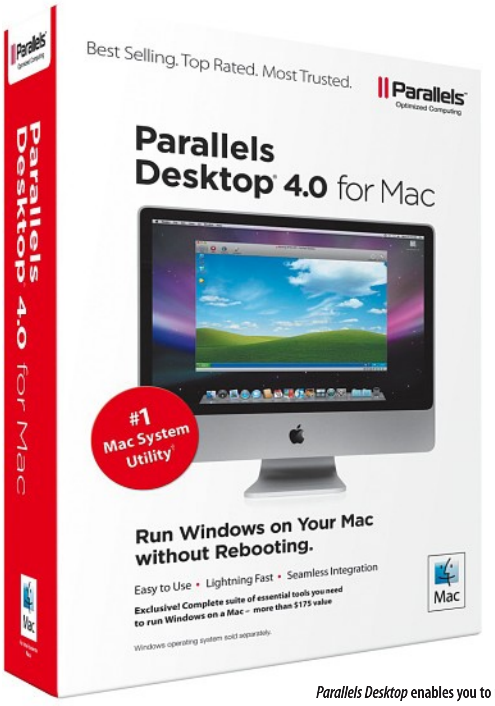
- + Improved interface
- + Good tools for multiple VMs
- + Safe Mode useful for protection
- + Intelligent device support
- – Doesn't feel entirely robust
- – Still has performance issues

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Parallels Desktop 4 is usable, Mac-like and feature-rich. Unfortunately, it's not as good as VMware Fusion."

A software arms race is the best way to end up with quality products. When an application has no competition, it grows fat and lazy. But when a rival's breathing down a developer's neck, it pushes them on to greater things. This has long been the case for virtualisation software, which enables you to run other operating systems (such as Windows) simultaneously with Mac OS X. In this space, *Parallels Desktop* and *VMware Fusion* have traded blows almost since Intel Macs first appeared, and have improved with each release. We were mightily impressed with *Fusion 2.0* (see *MacFormat* 202, page 94), and keen to see whether *Parallels Desktop 4.0* could keep pace.


Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac
Best Selling. Top Rated. Most Trusted.
Parallels Optimized Computing
Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac
#1 Mac System Utility
Run Windows on Your Mac without Rebooting.
Easy to Use • Lightning Fast • Seamless Integration
Exclusive! Complete suite of essential tools you need to run Windows on a Mac – more than $175 value
Windows operating system sold separately.
Mac

Parallels Desktop enables you to run Windows simultaneously with Mac OS X.

Second best

Unfortunately for *Parallels Desktop*, although it was the first application to bring hardware virtualisation to Intel Macs, it now comes off like an inferior version of *Fusion*. In terms of features, it mostly matches VMware's effort – and very occasionally beats it – but typically it's second best.

There's a new interface, which looks more Mac-like and – at a glance – prettier than *Fusion*'s. It's a major improvement for *Parallels Desktop*, but *Fusion* feels more responsive, is more consistent, and provides better visual indicators, such as in the main window's status bar. Then there's Coherence mode, which nestles guest operating system windows with Mac OS X ones. *Fusion*'s Unity feature is practically identical, but lacks *Parallels*' juddery updates and confusing transitions.

Parallels Desktop now matches *Fusion*'s multiple snapshot support, but whereas *Fusion*'s workflow and interface are intuitive and polished, the *Parallels Desktop* equivalent feels like an afterthought, although some will perhaps prefer its tree-based display. And then there's multiple display support – one of *Fusion*'s real crown jewels. In our review, we noted how *Fusion* picked up a connected external display without us having to do anything. By comparison, *Parallels Desktop* has to be coaxed into using multiple displays in Coherence mode via a preference setting, and flatly refuses to admit multiple displays exist at all in Full Screen mode.

Performance problems

Perhaps the biggest disappointment, though, is performance. The previous version of *Parallels Desktop* often had us grinding teeth in sheer frustration as it brought our Macs to a shuddering halt when we had the audacity to try and run other applications alongside it. *Parallels* claims version 4 brings major updates regarding speed and resource allocation, and this is true: everything is faster, and *Parallels Desktop* is less resource-hungry. However, we also found its prl_vm_app process often chewed up processor cycles like nobody's business, and for a short while we were worried our MacBook would melt, such was the strain *Parallels Desktop* was placing on it. With no Windows applications running at all, things noticeably calmed down, but with *Fusion* we accidentally left it hidden while running a bunch of browsers for three days. We doubt we could do that with *Parallels Desktop* for three minutes.

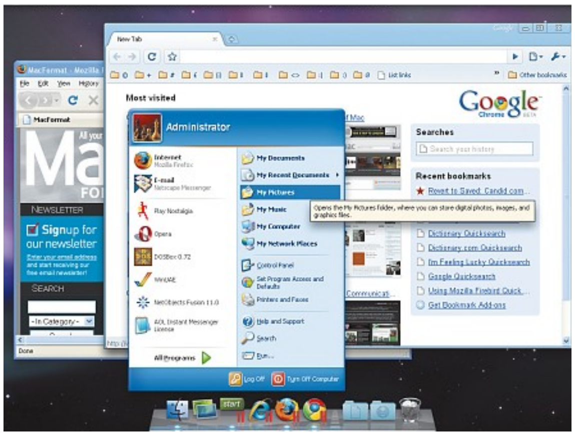
At this point, you might wonder if *Parallels Desktop 4* has anything going for it, but the fact of the matter is that it does. Indeed, most of the features mentioned earlier aren't actually bad – they just pale in comparison to *Fusion*. However, a slew of minor gems unique to *Parallels Desktop* makes it a better application than it otherwise might have been. For example, putting Windows taskbar icons in the Mac OS X menu bar while in Coherence mode is a minor stroke of genius, and Clips are an interesting, user-friendly way of sending partial screen grabs from a guest system to your Mac. The auto-detection and auto-configuration of different flavours of Windows during installs was great to see, as were the various warnings *Parallels* offered while updating. Safe Mode, which enables you to work with a virtual machine and only later decide to save changes, is also welcome. Sure, it's a snapshot in all but name, but its no-nonsense moniker grabs the attention, and will no doubt lead to fewer broken virtual machines after bad application installs.

New features

Parallels Desktop 4 also offers a few real standout new features. The first is for those who regularly work with multiple virtual machines. Modality view enables you to scale down a machine's display –

> **"Parallels claims version 4 brings major updates regarding speed and resource allocation, and this is true"**

When in Coherence mode, the familiar Windows Start menu is accessible from the *Parallels Desktop* Dock icon.


New Tab
MacFormat - Mozilla
File Edit View History
MacFormat
Newsletter
Signup for our newsletter
Search
-In Category-
Done
List links
Other bookmarks
Most visited
Google Chrome BETA
Searches
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All Programs
My Documents
My Recent Documents
My Pictures
My Music
My Computer
My Network Places
Control Panel
Set Program Access and Defaults
Printers and Faxes
Help and Support
Search
Run...
Log Off
Turn Off Computer
start

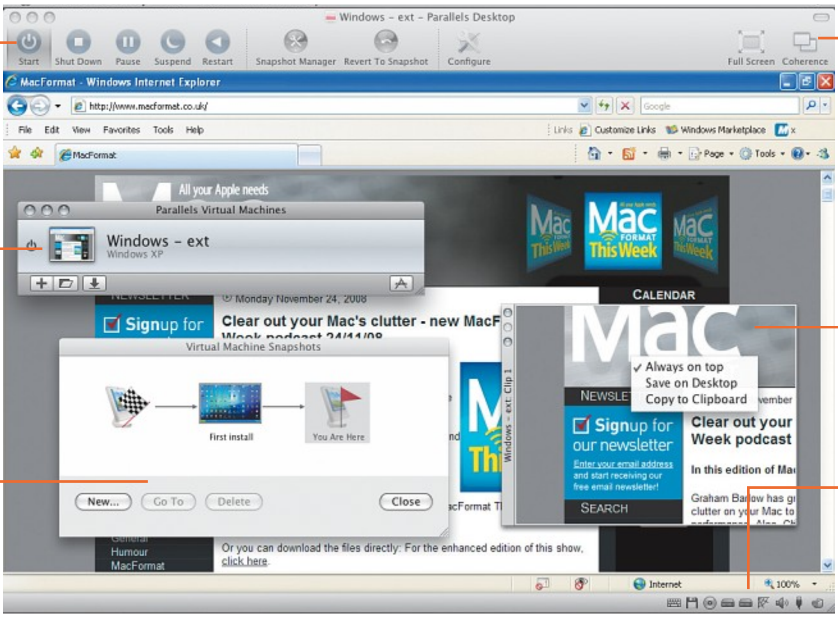
Opens the My Pictures folder, where you can store digital photos, images, and graphics files.

THE INTERFACE | Take a tour of Parallels Desktop 4.0

Machine options
Various options are available for starting, stopping and suspending your virtual machine. Suspending is the best option, since restarting doesn't require a virtual boot.

Snapshots
You can take snapshots of your virtual machines, enabling you to return to a previous point if something goes wrong, for example in the event of a bad software install.

VM Directory
Easily accessed via ⌘+[1], the Virtual Machines Directory provides an indication of the status of your virtual machines.



Coherence mode
On clicking the Coherence button guest application windows appear, much like Mac ones, and their icons appear in the Dock, enabling you to store them there permanently.

Clips
The Clips function provides the means for taking partial screen grabs of the guest system, which can then be sent to the Mac desktop or clipboard.

Status bar
Device configuration is just a click away via the status bar. Hovering the mouse cursor over the icons also provides a brief overview of each device's state.

useful for monitoring several environments at once – and the ability to easily clone virtual machines or convert them to templates is a godsend for anyone managing dozens of the things.

Device support is also impressive in *Parallels Desktop*, and its SmartMount and SmartConnect features are an area where *Fusion* is clearly beaten. The former essentially provides a means of transparently sharing connected external storage across the host and guest operating systems, and the latter enables you to choose which system captures newly connected external devices, such as printers and media players. A checkbox enables you to make this association permanent, or you can leave it blank for a one-time capture.

Added extras

Parallels also makes a big deal about bundled extras, boasting about "£100 premium value in bonus software" – a figure we think is a bit of a stretch in true value terms. Sure, the licence for *Parallels'* Internet Security powered by *Kaspersky* is fine, but *Fusion* offers *McAfee*; *Acronis True Image Home* (for backing up your system) seems redundant now *Parallels Desktop* has better snapshots; and *Acronis Disk Director Suite* (a partition manager and disk editor) is superfluous to most people's requirements, especially since *Parallels Desktop* automatically increases virtual disk sizes when needed. There's also an iPhone app, *Parallels Mobile*, which we assumed would be some kind of VNC/screen-sharing client. In reality, it doesn't do a great deal and is largely restricted to selecting a virtual machine from a list and suspending or restarting it.

> "The comparison between Parallels Desktop and Fusion is almost like that between a PC and a Mac"

Suitably, the comparison between *Parallels Desktop* and *Fusion* is almost like that between a decent PC and a Mac. Both are dependable, solid solutions, and both – in their own way – are quality products. However, by paying a little extra for *Fusion*, you're getting more, some of which is at first of an indefinable quality, but nonetheless obvious with extended use.

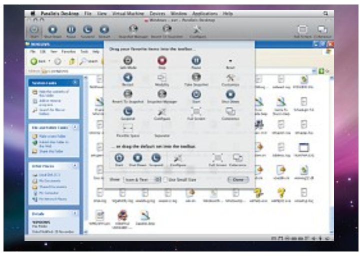
That's not to detract from *Parallels Desktop* overall. Despite our negativity in this review, it isn't a bad application as such – it's just *Fusion* is superior in key areas, such as robustness, performance and snapshots, and is therefore the best choice for newcomers. For upgraders, things are less clear-cut – *Parallels Desktop 4* offers enough improvements over version 3 to justify the £25 fee; however, an additional £30 gets you a better experience by switching to *Fusion*. Therefore, we recommend even dedicated *Parallels Desktop* users check out the trial version of VMware's application before parting with any cash.

Craig Grannell

THE TOP THREE | The best features of Parallels Desktop 4.0

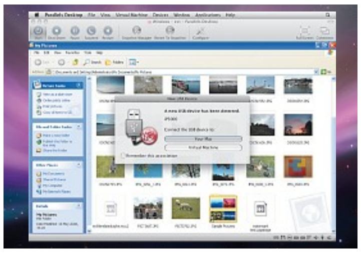
Improved interface

Parallels Desktop has taken a cue from *Fusion* and now feels far more Mac-like. The configurable unified toolbar is stylish and subtle, and the entire interface feels more coherent and usable than that of previous versions.



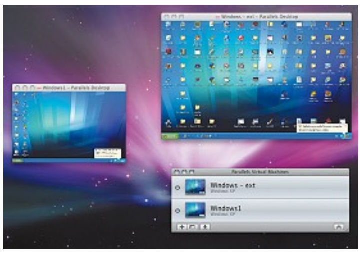
Intelligent device support

When storage media is connected, it's accessible to both the Mac and guest operating systems. Also, when a new device is found by *Parallels*, it asks which OS you'd like to capture it with, and if you'd like your choice remembered.



Modality view

Although something of a niche concern, Modality view will appeal to anyone who runs multiple virtual machines simultaneously. It enables you to scale guest windows to view several at once, without cropping them in any way.



LOGO AND ARTWORK CREATOR

Belight Software Art Text 2

$40 (£27) Save hours designing logos, buttons and stylised text with this handy graphic designer's tool

CONTACT INFO

Developer Belight Software
www.belightsoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492425

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

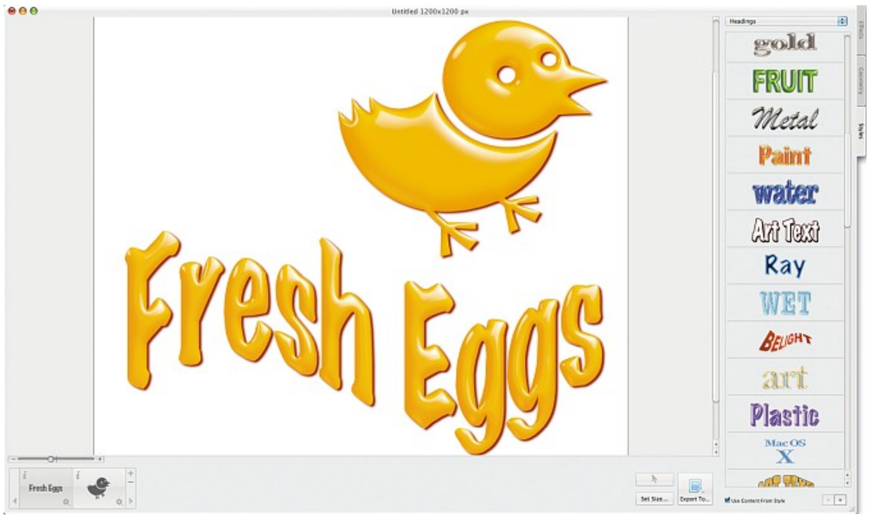
- ⊕ Oodles of styles
- ⊕ Easy geometrical adjustments
- ⊕ Great selection of icons and symbols
- ⊕ Includes 50 Bitstream fonts
- ⊖ A bit processor hungry
- ⊖ Individual letter kerning would be nice

VERDICT

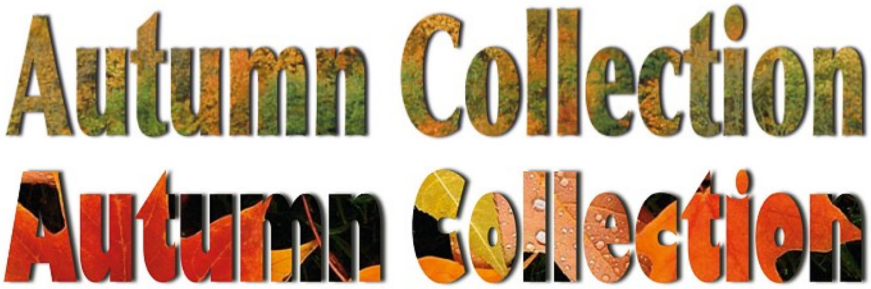
★★★★☆

"If you spend too much time producing logos and buttons, then give this great little program a whirl."

Plucky Ukrainian software developer, Belight, has produced some cracking packages in the past. We've had *Business Card Composer*, *Mail Factory* and *Swift Publisher*, to name but three. Now those lovely people from Odessa have released *Art Text 2*, the latest version of the company's handy tool for producing stylised text, logos and web buttons. If you've ever spent half a lifetime fiddling around in *Photoshop* trying to create Apple's glass Aqua effect or maybe producing some embossed type with realistic reflections, then you'll know how boring, tedious and downright frustrating it can be.



The interface of *Art Text* is a bit unwieldy at first – it's not the most intuitive by any means – but practice makes perfect in the end.



Hundreds of effects

Art Text 2 builds on the first release of this package and now includes an extended range of 200 effects, so you can fill your text, shapes, icons and symbols with plain colours, textures or a whole host of gorgeous Aqua effects, metallic or plastic finishes. You can customise or make up your own combination of effects and then save them as your own preset styles to add to the 100 styles already on offer. And once you've chosen your effect, it's a really quick and simple job to bang out a whole range of buttons and other page furniture without spending hours bogged down in *Photoshop*'s Layer Styles.

There's a layer feature in *Art Text 2* that enables you to build up multiple objects with different styles and colours applied. In fact, the scope is there to produce artwork that could, if not restrained, make your eyes bleed, but it's up to you as the designer to exercise a modicum of taste and decency. As well as changing the effects applied to your objects, you can also alter the geometry you want to use.

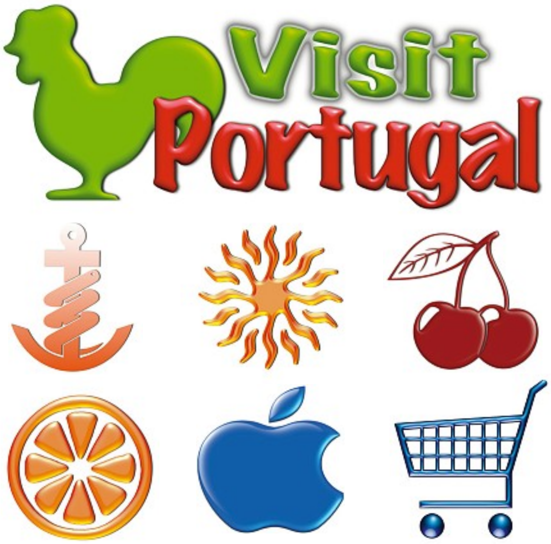
> "It's a really quick and simple job to bang out a whole range of buttons and other page furniture"

There's a heap of styles – some a little over the top, but plenty of others that offer professional-looking results. *Art Text 2* doesn't possess the most intuitive interface and the inability to edit your text in-situ is a bit old-fashioned; you have to type and edit the text in a separate editing window or Layer Content, as it's called. Another minor gripe is the time that it takes for the program to export your artwork into the choice of PDF, TIFF, JPEG, PNG, EPS or GIF files. Occasionally the program would stall with a particularly complicated multi-layer graphic; the resizing of the document can be a bit long winded too, and the program runs sluggishly on anything less than an Intel Mac – a harsh requirement for what is essentially a logo creator. We'd also like to see it possible to set the type of measurement units in *Art Text*'s preferences, along with the option of a default document size.

Those few criticisms aside, *Art Text 2* is a lovely piece of software that can really speed up the process of producing attractive text, buttons and logos for websites or printed material. In many ways, *Art Text 2* is reminiscent of the old *Macromedia Fireworks* package but rather easier to use. It certainly offers a lot of bang for your buck.

Mark Sparrow

Art Text comes packed with hundreds of ready-to-apply effects and preset styles to graft on to your own creations.

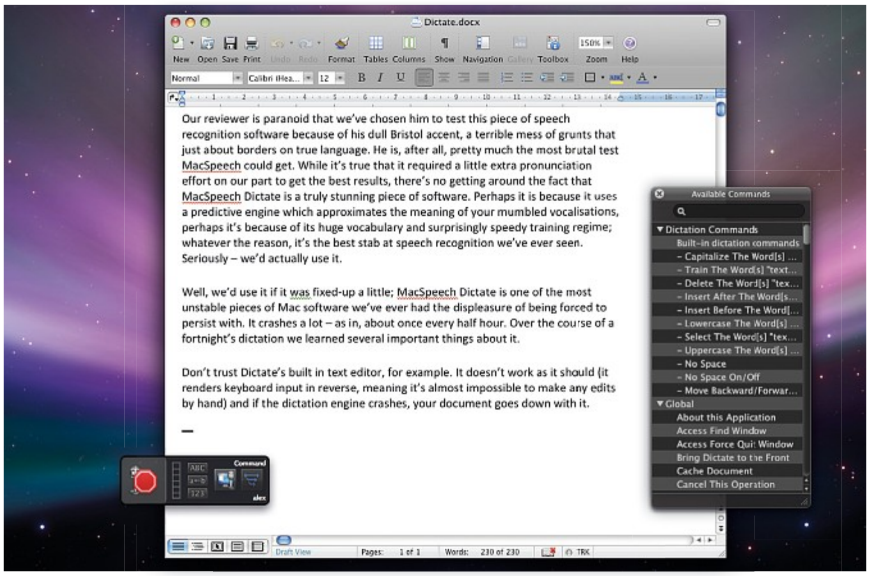


SPEECH RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

MacSpeech Dictate 1.2

£120 Voice recognition rears its head once again – but don't throw out your mouse and keyboard just yet

Our reviewer is paranoid that we've chosen him to test this piece of speech recognition software because of his dull Bristol accent, an awkward mess of grunts that just about borders on true language. He is, after all, pretty much the most brutal test *MacSpeech* could get. While it's true that it required a little extra pronunciation effort on our part to get the best results, there's no getting around the fact that *MacSpeech Dictate* is a truly stunning piece of software. Perhaps it's because it uses a predictive engine that approximates the meaning of your mumbled vocalisations; perhaps it's because of its huge vocabulary and surprisingly speedy training regime; whatever the reason, it's the best stab at speech recognition we've ever seen. Seriously – we'd actually use it.


Dictate.docx
New
Open
Save
Print
Undo
Redo
Format
Tables
Columns
Show
Navigation
Gallery
Toolbox
150%
Zoom
Help
Normal
Calibri (Hea...
12
B
I
U
Command
ABC
alex
Available Commands
▼ Dictation Commands
Built-in dictation commands
– Capitalize The Word[s] ...
– Train The Word[s] "text...
– Delete The Word[s] "tex...
– Insert After The Word[s...
– Insert Before The Word[...
– Lowercase The Word[s] ...
– Select The Word[s] "tex...
– Uppercase The Word[s] ...
– No Space
– No Space On/Off
– Move Backward/Forwar...
▼ Global
About this Application
Access Find Window
Access Force Quit Window
Bring Dictate to the Front
Cache Document
Cancel This Operation
Draft View
Pages: 1 of 1
Words: 210 of 230
TRK

Our reviewer is paranoid that we've chosen him to test this piece of speech recognition software because of his dull Bristol accent, a terrible mess of grunts that just about borders on true language. He is, after all, pretty much the most brutal test MacSpeech could get. While it's true that it required a little extra pronunciation effort on our part to get the best results, there's no getting around the fact that MacSpeech Dictate is a truly stunning piece of software. Perhaps it is because it uses a predictive engine which approximates the meaning of your mumbled vocalisations, perhaps it's because of its huge vocabulary and surprisingly speedy training regime; whatever the reason, it's the best stab at speech recognition we've ever seen. Seriously – we'd actually use it.

Well, we'd use it if it was fixed-up a little; MacSpeech Dictate is one of the most unstable pieces of Mac software we've ever had the displeasure of being forced to persist with. It crashes a lot – as in, about once every half hour. Over the course of a fortnight's dictation we learned several important things about it.

Don't trust Dictate's built in text editor, for example. It doesn't work as it should (it renders keyboard input in reverse, meaning it's almost impossible to make any edits by hand) and if the dictation engine crashes, your document goes down with it.

"HAL, I won't argue with you anymore! Open the document!" "Alex, this conversation can serve no purpose anymore. Goodbye."

Swear a lot

However, it wasn't all plain sailing. Speech recognition software needs to be trained to recognise your voice, so we spent three whole weeks with *MacSpeech Dictate*. During those three weeks we applied the most recent software update, which affected its stability. After that it crashes a lot – as in, about once every half hour. Hopefully that will be fixed by a future update.

> "We repeatedly found the program resolutely refusing to leave its slumber despite our protestations"

Also, we didn't like *Dictate*'s built-in text editor. It doesn't work as it should (it renders keyboard input in reverse, meaning it's almost impossible to make any edits by hand) and if the dictation engine crashes, your document goes down with it. Secondly, we had issues with *Dictate*'s ability to go to sleep and wake up at our command. We repeatedly found the program resolutely refusing to leave its slumber despite our numerous protestations. And, of course, as with all speech recognition technology there are always going to be occasional misinterpretations that sneak in from time to time, especially if you don't speak slowly.

Reverse psychology

Detaching yourself from mouse and keyboard controls really can take some time, particularly given *Dictate*'s slightly eccentric list of navigation commands. Mild inconsistencies slip in every now and then: why do "File Close", "File New" and "File Open" work, whereas "File Save" is replaced with "Save This Document"? Why is there no context-friendly support for dialogue boxes? While we're picking holes, and this really is digging deep, the way *MacSpeech* ponderously deliberates before delivering your words to the screen can be irritating. You can speak a whole paragraph and have to wait a couple of seconds before being allowed to edit any errors.

Can you repeat that?

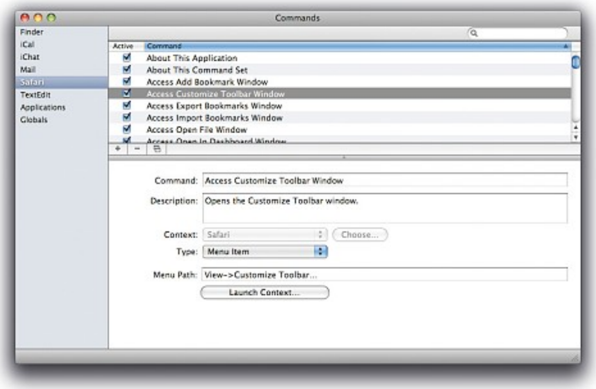
Getting around errors while only using your voice isn't even that easy. There's a long-winded spelling mode for awkward words, but actively deleting mistakes usually means either using your mouse or re-speaking a huge chunk of text. As with any form of speech recognition, there are the logistical implications to think of too. Speech is a particularly antisocial method of interacting with a computer. You wouldn't want to use it in a communal office or on a train, for example. Add to that the fact that it's not particularly efficient; in order to speak with the pace and diction that *MacSpeech* finds comfortable, you'll find yourself slowing down to the point where typing and mousing may indeed be preferable. It's amazing how much *Dictate* is an exercise in training yourself to speak clearly and consistently as much as it is about training the software.

In the end, we'll probably use *Dictate* again, despite our grumbles. Hopefully somewhere down the line it will be refined into a more robust form that positively encourages us to put on a headset – there's a bog-standard Plantronics unit included in the box along with a USB sound card – and bark orders at our Mac.

MacSpeech Dictate as it is works well as an occasional tool that's useful for fleshing out first drafts or resting RSI-addled wrists.

Alex Cox

MacSpeech Dictate's contextual menus enable you to set up speech commands for your other OS X applications.


Commands
Finder
iCal
iChat
Mail
Safari
TextEdit
Applications
Globals
Active
Command
☑ About This Application
☑ About This Command Set
☑ Access Add Bookmark Window
☑ Access Customize Toolbar Window
☑ Access Export Bookmarks Window
☑ Access Import Bookmarks Window
☑ Access Open File Window
Choose...
Launch Context...

Command: Access Customize Toolbar Window
Description: Opens the Customize Toolbar window.
Context: Safari
Type: Menu Item
Menu Path: View->Customize Toolbar...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer MacSpeech Inc.
www.macspeech.com
Latest price on TechRadar:
www.techradar.com/492435

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11 or Mac OS X 10.5.2 or later, Intel processor, 512MB RAM

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Surprisingly efficient recognition
- ⊕ Huge vocabulary
- ⊕ Decent included headset
- ⊖ Update lead to stability issues
- ⊖ Issues waking from sleep
- ⊖ Awkward command structure

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A hint of what could become the best speech recognition engine out there, but it still needs work."

OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY SUITE

Sun Microsystems StarOffice 9

£23 It's almost as good as Office, but it's still not the best option

CONTACT INFO

Developer Sun Microsystems
www.sun.com/software/staroffice
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492366

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel processor, 512MB RAM, 500MB (multi-language version: 800MB) of available hard drive space, CD-ROM or DVD drive, 1,024x768 resolution display with 256 colours (higher resolution recommended), OS X 10.4 or higher

FOR AND AGAINST

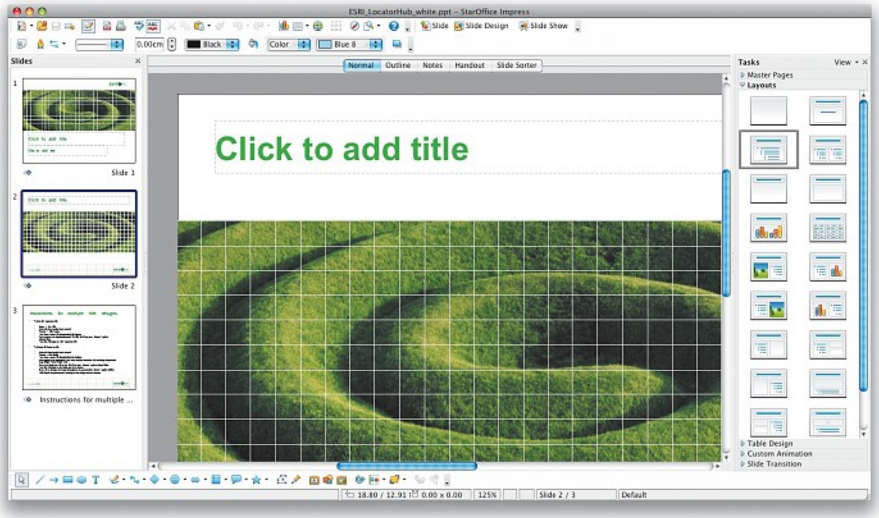
+ OS X native interface
+ Imports and exports *Office 2007/8* files
+ Includes support
+ Has a big range of clip art and templates
+ Expandable with extensions
– Not £23 better than *OpenOffice.org*

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Although StarOffice has impressive features, OpenOffice.org is virtually identical and is free."

Once upon a time, there was a little office productivity suite called *StarOffice*. Intended as a cheap alternative to Microsoft's *Office* suite, it soon got bought up by Sun Microsystems. Sun opened up the source to *StarOffice* and this became *OpenOffice.org*. Yet Sun decided it wasn't going to discontinue *StarOffice*; it was going to continue to release new versions based on *OpenOffice.org* but with extra features and support, all of which would come at a (small) price. Now, hot on the heels of last month's release of *OpenOffice.org 3.0* comes *StarOffice 9*, the suite's first OS X native release.


ESRI_LocatorHub_white.ppt - StarOffice Impress
Slides
Normal
Outline
Notes
Handout
Slide Sorter
Click to add title
Slide 1
Slide 2
Instructions for multiple ...
Tasks
View
Master Pages
Layouts
Table Design
Custom Animation
Slide Transition
Slide 2 / 3
Default

StarOffice tries to be as compatible with *Office* as possible, and can read virtually all *PowerPoint* files.

Cheaper options

OpenOffice.org and *StarOffice* are undoubtedly your best bet if you don't want to buy *Office*. As well as a word processor, spreadsheet and presentation package that can pretty much match *Word*, *Excel* and *PowerPoint* feature for feature, both suites trump *Office for Mac 2008* by including a database package and supporting Visual Basic macros, just as Microsoft has discontinued support for them on the Mac. Since *StarOffice* follows more of a commercial release schedule than *OpenOffice.org*'s open source model, *StarOffice* can justifiably claim to have 1,500 new features since version 8 even if most of these come from .x updates to *OpenOffice.org 2.0*.

New to both suites, though, is the same near-OS X native interface. It's not quite there yet since both suites rely on Sun's Java platform and Apple's implementation of Java doesn't quite have the seamless quality needed to fool the careful observer. For most operations, it'll feel almost OS X-like and at the very least, reminiscent of *Office*, thanks in part to a new icon set for its toolbars. But there are times when it feels clunky and user-unfriendly, particularly now that *Office 2007* and *Office 2008* have switched to a more polished and streamlined appearance.

> "If OpenOffice didn't exist, buying StarOffice would be a no-brainer. As it is, it's not compelling enough"

Also new in the latest release is the ability to read, edit and save *Office 2007/8* XML files – including the dreaded .docx format – which although pretty good, does have problems when dealing with files that contain features that *OpenOffice.org* and *StarOffice* don't support, such as reviewing and commenting. Both now support the OpenDocument Format version 1.2 as their native file types, have workbook sharing in the spreadsheet module so two people can work on a spreadsheet at the same time and the presentation module now handles tables natively.

But given that *StarOffice* and *OpenOffice.org* are pretty much the same program, why bother paying £23 to download *StarOffice* when you can have *OpenOffice.org* for free?

You do get support rolled into the purchase price of *StarOffice*, something you have to rely on the open source community for with *OpenOffice.org*, but this amounts to three free phone calls. That said, if you're having problems, a telephone call is often far more reassuring than trusting that someone online will answer your question quickly. You're also indemnified in case anyone wants to sue you because they think that Sun stole their intellectual property. Which is utterly useless to virtually everyone.

Sun also advertises a number of additional functions: PDF import, a blog publisher, a presenter console, a report builder, a MediaWiki publisher, a presentation minimiser and support for the eFax online faxing service. There's also the *Lightning* extension, which allows *StarOffice* to integrate with *Thunderbird* and give that open source email program calendaring functions. However, these are all available as free extensions for *OpenOffice.org* as well.

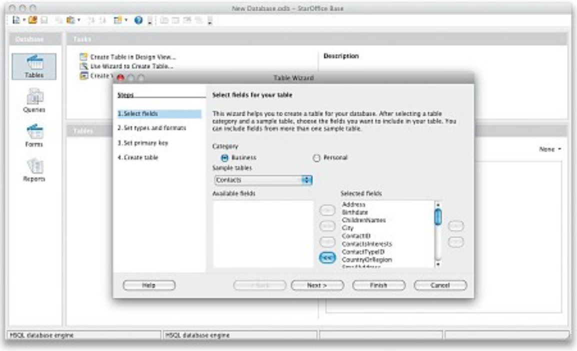
Pointless purchase

What *StarOffice* does have that *OpenOffice.org* genuinely doesn't are certain additional file filters, far more templates and clip art than *OpenOffice.org* and some different spellcheckers. Now this may not seem like much – and indeed it's not compared to the full power of both suites – but you could easily spend £23 on clip art and templates.

All the same, while it's a great and perhaps superior alternative to *Office* and even Apple's *iWork*, the money spent on *StarOffice* will be money wasted. If *OpenOffice* didn't exist, buying *StarOffice* would be a no-brainer. As it is, it's just not compelling enough.

Rob Buckley

StarOffice includes a fully fledged database and database management program.


New Database.odb – StarOffice Base
Database
Tables
Queries
Forms
Reports
Tasks
Create Table in Design View...
Use Wizard to Create Table...
Description
Table Wizard
Steps
1. Select fields
2. Set types and formats
3. Set primary key
4. Create table
Select fields for your table
Available fields
Selected fields
Address
Birthdate
ChildrenNames
City
ContactID
ContactsInterests
ContactTypeID
CountryOrRegion
Help
< Back
Next >
Finish
Cancel
HSQL database engine

This wizard helps you to create a table for your database. After selecting a table category and a sample table, choose the fields you want to include in your table. You can include fields from more than one sample table.

Category ● Business ○ Personal

Sample tables: Contacts

PHOTOSHOP FILTER

Mister Retro Permanent Press

$99 (£66) Bring the soul back into today's sterile graphics

CONTACT INFO

Developer Mister Retro
www.misterretro.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492343

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, *Lightroom*/*Photoshop CS2*/*Photoshop Elements 4* or higher

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Charming effects
- ➕ Fine-grained control
- ➕ Ability to save presets
- ➖ Inefficient preview pane
- ➖ Results aren't layered
- ➖ Very basic control over stock

VERDICT

★★★★☆

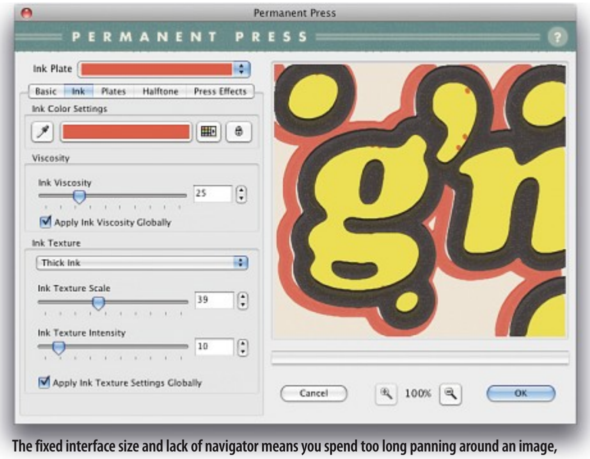
"Creates beautifully tactile and evocative images from sharp, modern graphics."

All the work traditionally required for creating the cleanest, crispest printed output has been been roundly undone by this superb filter. It plugs into *Photoshop CS2* or *Photoshop Elements 4* or later, and creates low-fi print effects.

The included presets make great starting points, but the real fun begins when you start to tinker. You have control over whether CMYK or specific inks are used, and can decide how thick the ink should be, what texture it can have, how heavy the press will be and more.

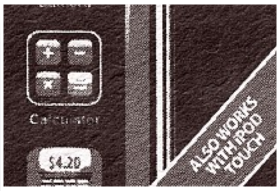
The results are packed with character, though we do have some niggles. The finished image is outputted as a flat image without any transparency, there's limited control over the paper and while you can set a flat colour, if you want a texture like we've added to our newsprint example, you'd need to apply that as a texture map using *Photoshop*'s own tools. Regardless, we love it.

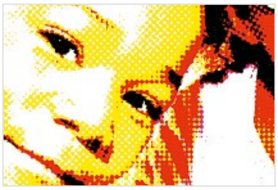
Christopher Phin

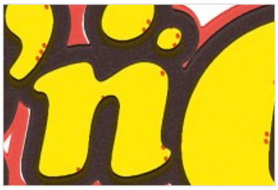


Ink Plate
Ink Color Settings
Viscosity
Ink Viscosity: 25
☑ Apply Ink Viscosity Globally
Ink Texture: Thick Ink
Ink Texture Scale: 39
Ink Texture Intensity: 10
☑ Apply Ink Texture Settings Globally

The fixed interface size and lack of navigator means you spend too long panning around an image, but this charming filter nonetheless offers huge amounts of control.


Calculator
$4.20
ALSO WORKS WITH IPOD TOUCH





FONT MANAGEMENT UTILITY

Extensis Suitcase Fusion 2

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

$130 (£87) Flexible font management tool adds floating previews and better auto-activation

CONTACT INFO

Developer Extensis
www.extensis.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492354

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5, 256MB RAM

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Floating preview windows
- ➕ Faster than previous versions
- ➕ Auto-activation in most programs
- ➕ Cleaner interface
- ➕ Must-have font management
- ➖ Only works in Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard)

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A solid upgrade to the oldest font management tool around – a must-have for font fans."

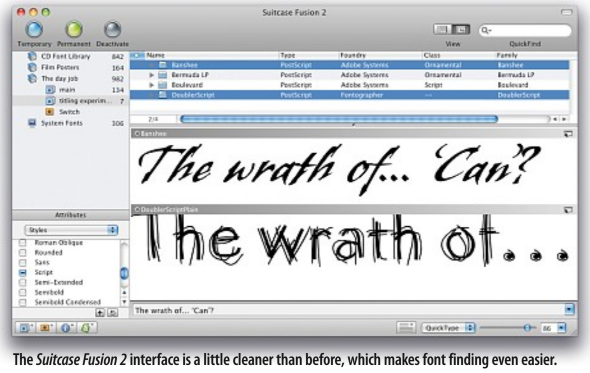
Extensis Suitcase Fusion 2 is the newest version of one of the oldest Mac tools around. It helps manage large font collections, keeping you from drowning in an uncontrolled sea of typefaces. This is done by listing all your fonts in *Suitcase* libraries and collections and enabling you to turn different ones on and off as you want to use them, keeping font menus short and sweet. But there's more to the software than this basic ability.

First of all, finding the font you want from your collection is made easy through options that enable you to search according to foundry, version, type classification and much more. When you have a search refined you can save it as a **Smart Set** to use again, and you can also make as many font collection lists as you like and repeat fonts in them. Make one for each design project you do and activate all their fonts on in one click.

You can even get *Suitcase* to do the activation for you. Opening an *InDesign CS3/CS4*, or *QuarkXPress 7/8* document will get *Suitcase* to check for fonts you've used, and it will turn these on if they're not active already. The software uses something Extensis calls Font Sense, which uses a broad range of identification methods to make sure you get the right version of a font even if, for example, you have half a dozen variants of Franklin Gothic. Other programs can be set up for auto-activation as well, although they don't get the benefit of Font Sense precision matching.

But the real gem here is the new preview feature. The standard built-in font sample feature that shows portions of text in the selected typeface can now float, with see-through background, over your work. This is a great way to check how type might look in your design, and it's what makes this a must-have tool for anyone with more than a handful of basic fonts.

Caspian Kidd



CD Font Library 842
Film Posters 164
The day job 982
main 134
titling experim... 7
Switch
System Fonts 106

Name	Type	Foundry	Class	Family
Banshee	PostScript	Adobe Systems	Ornamental	Banshee
Bermuda LP	PostScript	Adobe Systems	Ornamental	Bermuda LP
Boulevard	PostScript	Adobe Systems	Script	Boulevard
DoublerScript	PostScript	Fontographer	--	DoublerScript

☐ Roman Oblique
☐ Rounded
☐ Sans
☑ Script
☐ Semi-Extended
☐ Semibold
☐ Semibold Condensed

Banshee: The wrath of... 'Can?
DoublerScriptPlain: The wrath of...

The *Suitcase Fusion 2* interface is a little cleaner than before, which makes font finding even easier.

SOFTWARE SYNTHESIZER

Spectrasonics Omnisphere

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£199 The world's most powerful musical instrument is now available to Mac users

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Spectrasonics
www.spectrasonics.net
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492407

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

G5 with 2GHz processor, Mac OS 10.4.9 or later, 2GB RAM, 50GB of free hard drive space, dual-layer compatible DVD drive for installation, plus an AU, VST or RTAS host

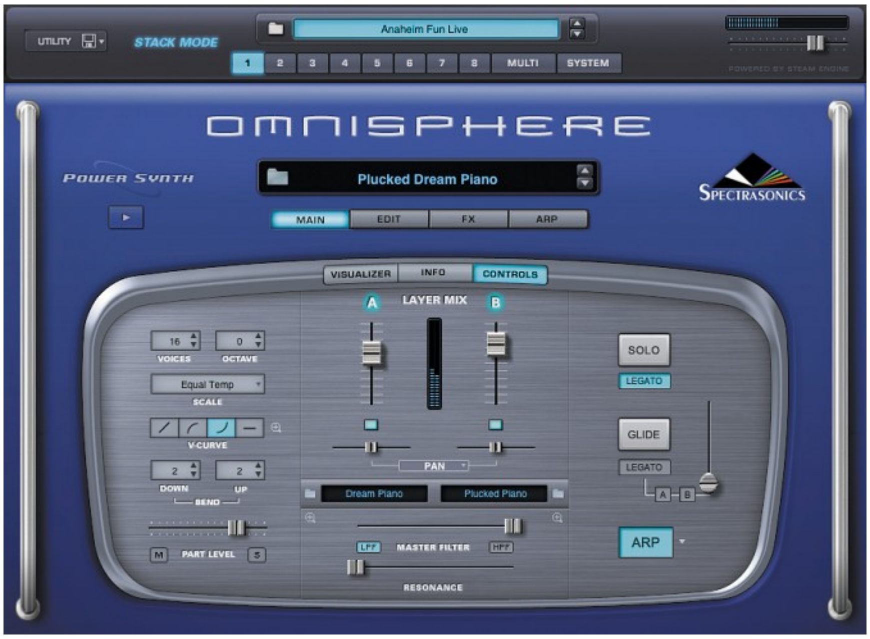
FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Sounds amazing!
- ⊕ Most powerful synth ever made
- ⊕ Extraordinarily versatile
- ⊕ Superb instructional videos
- ⊕ Surprisingly easy to use
- ⊖ It's not cheap!

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Omnisphere is the most awesome synthesizer yet made, software or hardware. If you're serious about sound design you should get one!"


UTILITY
STACK MODE
Anaheim Fun Live
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 MULTI SYSTEM
POWERED BY STEAM ENGINE
OMNISPHERE
POWER SYNTH
Plucked Dream Piano
SPECTRASONICS
MAIN EDIT FX ARP
VISUALIZER INFO CONTROLS
A LAYER MIX B
16 VOICES
0 OCTAVE
Equal Temp SCALE
V-CURVE
2 DOWN 2 UP BEND
M PART LEVEL S
SOLO LEGATO
GLIDE LEGATO A B
ARP
PAN
Dream Piano Plucked Piano
LPF MASTER FILTER HPF
RESONANCE

Omnisphere is one monster virtual synthesizer! The wealth of its effects just boggle the mind and will soup up any music making studio.

Omnisphere is Spectrasonics' new flagship virtual synthesizer instrument. It combines a powerful and flexible synthesis system with a huge sound library and a plethora of innovative features. The prototype caused quite a stir at this year's NAMM show, with renowned musicians hailing it as the most impressive synthesizer they'd ever heard. Now the product has finally arrived so we can see for ourselves if it really is as good as they say…

Omnisphere is an eight-part multitimbral instrument powered by what Spectrasonics describe as their 'new Steam Engine technology' – it can be considered as eight state-of-the-art synths rolled into one. Each of these parts has two layers and each layer has an oscillator that can be set either to Sample mode (which uses detailed samples as the sound source) or Synth mode (where the oscillator itself generates a wide range of waveforms).

There's also a composite morphing technique, which morphs the harmonic characteristics of one instrument into another, eight independent arpeggiators, a huge 42GB sound library and a comprehensive effects system.

But it doesn't stop there: alongside its regular multitimbral mode, *Omnisphere* also offers a Live Mode (where you can step through different sounds during a live performance) and Stack Mode (which allows the user to arrange and dovetail up to eight parts over different areas of the keyboard).

Omnisphere comes with thousands of presets – just search the synth's browsers for specific instruments, timbres, categories, moods or genres. You can, for example, find a spacey piano sound by clicking Keyboards in a Category window, Pianos in a Type window and Ambient in a Genre window. There are three browsers: the Multi Browser, where you select *Omnisphere*'s multitimbral presets; the Patch Browser, where you select dual layer patches for each part; and the Sound Source Browser, where you select the sampled sound sources for each layer.

> "Omnisphere comes with thousands of presets – just search the synth's browsers for specific instruments"

Omnisphere's interface contains progressive layers of 'zooming' to accommodate users, ranging from amateur musicians who want to quickly find cool sounds to expert synthesists and sound designers who want the maximum scope for their sonic manipulations. For the experts, *Omnisphere* offers a host of synthesis and control capabilities, including variable waveshaping DSP synthesis, granular synthesis, FM synthesis, polyphonic ring modulation, high-resolution streaming sample playback, and an innovative modulation routing system. It also integrates enhanced versions of Spectrasonics' award-winning Atmosphere sounds. There's even an excellent selection of free video tutorials to download.

Omnisphere is a joy to use and one of the most awe-inspiring instruments we've ever come across. The three browsers are easy to navigate, although you can occasionally wonder which one you're in when you're first playing around with the synth.

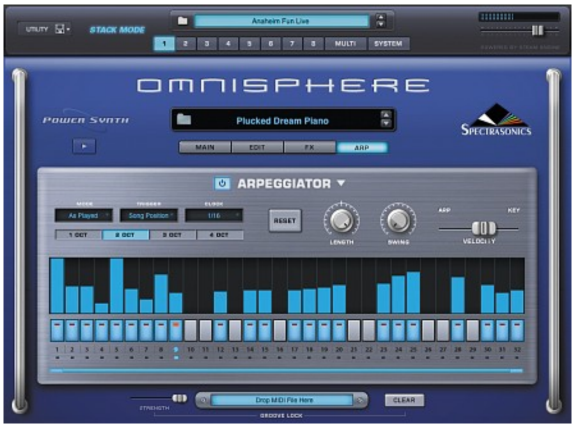
Sounded out

The sounds are fabulous, ranging from organic textures to charismatic arpeggiated tones, deep basses and soaring leads. The library also contains a range of unusual sounds including a burning piano (yes, literally a burning piano!) and all sorts of 'psychoacoustic' effects. The arpeggiator is amazing, especially if you load RMX grooves into it, while the Live Mode is a powerful feature in itself.

Omnisphere is a fantastic synth, capable of transforming anyone's *Logic*, *Pro Tools* or even *GarageBand* studio into a powerful music making machine. It's not the cheapest virtual instrument in the world but if you're serious about sound synthesis, you owe it to yourself to check it out!

Cliff Douse

The arpeggiator is an extraordinarily powerful and versatile aspect of *Omnisphere*'s setup.


UTILITY
STACK MODE
Anaheim Fun Live
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 MULTI SYSTEM
OMNISPHERE
POWER SYNTH
Plucked Dream Piano
SPECTRASONICS
MAIN EDIT FX ARP
ARPEGGIATOR
As Played
Song Position
1/16
RESET
1 OCT 2 OCT 3 OCT 4 OCT
LENGTH
SWING
VELOCITY
STRENGTH
Drop MIDI File Here
CLEAR
GROOVE LOCK

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CS4

University

THE WAIT IS OVER

Ps AE Pr ID Fl Ai Fw Dw Sb

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www.lynda.com/freepass/macformat/0209

Software Training Online

lynda.com®

PORTABLE HARD DISK

Iomega eGo Helium 320GB

£90 Take your data on the road in style with this MacBook Air-inspired hard disk

Iomega's eGo Helium sure is a looker, but it's a little pricey and prone to scratches.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Iomega
www.iomega.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492523

KEY SPECS

Capacity: 320GB
Interface: USB 2.0

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Pretty design
- + Solid performance
- + Not extravagantly overpriced
- + Retrospect Express 6.1 bundled
- − USB only
- − Case scratches easily

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"There are better-performing and cheaper drives available, but the eGo's style is welcome."

To suggest that we're swayed by superficial beauty would be wrong; *MacFormat*'s rigourous testing regime is about benchmarks, performance-versus-price judgements and, yes, spreadsheets of figures.

And yet we confess that when we first saw Iomega's MacBook Air-inspired eGo Helium, we forgot all about that. Yes, it's just an external portable hard disk; yes, it's just USB; and yes, 90 quid is over the odds for a 320GB hard disk, but we're seduced nonetheless.

The build quality doesn't match the Air, and indeed after only a few days of light usage there were some unsightly scratches appearing on the underside, but the styling cues it takes from the Air – those tapered edges, that metal-effect plastic – give a better interpretation of Apple style than Iomega's.

Performance is reasonable. With a sequential read speed of about 26MB/sec, sequential write of almost 21MB/sec, and 10 and 13MB/sec for random sequential read and write respectively, this is squarely in the range we'd expect from a device of this type.

It comes with a decent little software package, too; though the much-touted free 2GB of online storage from Mozy is nothing to shout about, but the bundled licence for *Retrospect Express 6.1* from Iomega's parent company EMC is of some value. Frankly, we're not big fans of the *Retrospect* system, but it is at least a widespread solution, so you should be able to get support easily if things go wrong. The drive will, of course, work with Mac OS X 10.5's *Time Machine* backup system, and indeed, as a solution aimed at Mac users, it comes ready-formatted as HFS+.

There are slightly cheaper portable drives of this capacity available, but the eGo Helium is a pretty little thing, and if you're buying it to sit next to your expensive MacBook Air, it's possible that you won't balk at the extra 15 or so quid. **Christopher Phin**

WEBCAM

Logitech QuickCam Vision Pro

£52 Add a webcam to your Mac mini, Mac Pro, or older Mac

Logitech manages to impress with the QuickCam Vision Pro, although audio isn't as good as with older models.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Logitech
www.logitech.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492540

KEY SPECS

Lens: autofocus **Resolution:** 2 megapixel **Length of cable:** 180cm **Requires:** 800MHz G4 or better, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Excellent image quality…
- + …particularly in low light
- + Well engineered
- + A fair price
- − Indiscriminate audio
- − No native access to 2MP stills

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Logitech does webcam video better than anyone, but the audio quality disappoints here."

Most of Apple's best-selling Macs come with a webcam built in, but if you plumped for a Mac mini or a Mac Pro, or you have an older Mac, you need to add one yourself.

We've been fans of Logitech's webcams for years, and this latest model still manages to impress. The build quality and styling are superb, with nice design touches such as the light that lets you know the camera is active showing as a smart white ring around the Logitech logo. The mount is intelligent, too, happily hooking over a desktop monitor or laptop screen, or sitting on a flat surface.

Picture quality is fantastic. The lens is autofocus, and it reacts reasonably quickly to objects moving close to and far away from it. It also does a cracking job of dealing with problematic lighting; one test in which cheap webcams always do poorly is low light. Usually, we'd expect to see pictures that were either very dim or hampered with unacceptable levels of noise.

The Logitech QuickCam Vision Pro does very well in low light, however, producing images that are more balanced and detailed than we're used to seeing in webcams that cost half as much.

Audio, however, isn't as accomplished as we've seen from earlier Logitech webcams. There's an annoying amount of background buzz, and it tends to pick up ambient noise far more then we'd like; when we tried to use it to talk to folks on *iChat* from the office, they complained about being able to hear our colleagues in the background. No software is supplied, but that's fine as it happily works with *iChat, Skype* and *Photo Booth*; indeed, it should work as a video input for any modern software. Though it's a two-megapixel camera, there's no way of capturing stills at full resolution without investing in a third-party piece of software.

Despite the disappointingly-indiscriminate microphone, this is still a great webcam, and it's definitely worth paying a little more for a good one. **Christopher Phin**

ETHERNET DISK FOR DATA SHARING

LaCie Internet Space 500GB

£128 This tiny NAS bridges the gap between the documents on your Mac and the web

This sleek slab of storage will appeal to anyone who has ever arrived at work only to discover they've forgotten this morning's *Keynote* presentation. Taking its position next to your home broadband router, it offers a single, secure access point for your files from any local or remote computer.

Unlike a basic USB or FireWire controller, network storage requires a tiny, embedded computer to perform the various tasks, and LaCie has managed to squeeze this into a compact, fanless footprint that's no larger and only slightly more expensive than an external USB disk.

This is NAS for the masses; no IP addresses to remember, ports to forward or dynamic DNS servers to configure in order to get the device accessible online. The only brain-power required is used thinking up a unique name for your disk; entering this name into **www.homelacie.com** lets you access your device's web interface, enabling browsing, downloading and uploading of files via a proxy-friendly http. There's also the ability to zip up batches of files.

Unlike predominantly local network storage such as Apple's Time Capsule, this is first and foremost a remote access device. With your home broadband connection as its limiting factor the drive's speed is irrelevant, leaving you to marvel at the sleek web interface while cursing your broadband provider's slow upload rate. But while LaCie includes support for various local streaming protocols – an *iTunes* server, for example – the unit's ultra-compact design means the on-board processor struggles to keep up.

When transferring large amounts of data or multitasking, the processor forms a bottleneck, causing OS X's copying time estimations to fluctuate wildly as the drive chokes on the data it's fed. In our tests, a 1GB file to the device took 4 minutes 12 seconds to transfer, compared to 2 minutes 8 seconds when copying to another Mac.

The Internet Space's gigabit streaming capabilities are therefore slightly misleading – they suggest that it's capable of offering not only an easier experience in a smaller footprint than larger, more traditional NAS devices, but also a similar level of network service performance. In reality, it's too easily overwhelmed to make it a serious choice for local backup or streaming.

Where the Internet Space truly succeeds, though, is in its primary function – to offer an uncomplicated, inexpensive way to share small documents between work and home.

James De Vile

KEY SPECS

Remote file access, Gigabit Ethernet, uPnP streaming, *iTunes* server **Dimensions (WxHxD):** 117x193x45mm **Software:** *MySafe* software for backup on additional USB disk, *HipServ* with easy install on CD **Warranty:** Two years

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer LaCie
www.lacie.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492550

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Attractive design
- ⊕ Simple setup
- ⊕ Easy web access
- ⊕ Fanless design
- ⊖ Sluggish transfer speeds
- ⊖ Processor easily overwhelmed

VERDICT

★★★⯪☆

"The Internet Space is unique in its simplicity, but is let down by slow transfer times."

iPOD AND iPHONE SPEAKER SYSTEM

Logic3 i-Station Rotate

£79 Will Logic3's latest iPhone/iPod speaker system get you in a spin?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Logic3
www.logic3.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492560

KEY SPECS

Audio out: 10W RMS **Drivers:** 50mm mid-range, 22mm tweeter for each channel **Dimensions:** 315x55x120mm

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Rotates
- + Video out (composite only)
- + Option to power by battery…
- − … but it's AAs, not a rechargeable
- − Poor audio quality
- − Relatively expensive

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"'Not actively bad' is hardly a ringing endorsement, though the concept is laudable."

The theory, at least, is sound. The 'rotate' in this product's name refers to the fact that while you dock your iPod or iPhone in the traditional way – vertically down, with the Dock connector at the bottom – the whole cradle mechanism can slide over to the right and rotate 90° anti-clockwise so that the player sits in a landscape format. While this isn't useful for classic iPods or third-gen nanos, it's potentially a big deal for owners of the touch and iPhone.

And that's because when either plays video, naturally they want to do so landscape – 'sideways' if you will – rather than the 'straight up and down' portrait orientation that they usually sit in. We like the i-Station Rotate's approach and it looks neater too, with the landscape iPhone following the top line of the speaker system rather than taking the usual approach and having it sticking up out of the top.

Its unique design means it doesn't use the regular and easy replaceable Universal Dock adaptors, but mounts are included for iPhone 3G, iPhone, iPod touch (first and second gen), nano (third and fourth gen) and iPod classic, so you're likely to be okay.

Unfortunately, the quality of the audio is distinctly average. The entire audio spectrum is cold and unwelcoming, and moderately high frequency sounds – particularly the ever-present sound of a snare drum marking out a beat – have a piercing and strident quality that's quite unpleasant. Straight acoustic tracks – with just a singer plus a guitar or a piano – are tolerable, but even then there's no soul to the music. Other speakers that exhibit these characteristics frequency usually have big, flabby bass to compensate, but the i-Station 3 Rotate doesn't even have that.

For this reason we recommend you stick with Logitech's Pure-Fi Anywhere unless you must have the landscape orientation option.

Christopher Phin

The design is clever and quite attractive, but the it gets the most important thing – the audio quality – wrong.

COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA

Samsung NV100 HD

£170 It looks the part, but is the NV100 HD's beauty only skin deep?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer: Samsung
www.samsungcamera.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492568

KEY SPEC'S

Effective pixel: Approx 14.7MP **Display:** 7.62cm HVGA (460,000 pixel) TFT LCD (touch) **Optical zoom:** 28-102mm

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Attractive design
- + Handles well in low light
- − Proprietary connector
- − Noisy images
- − Aggressive processing
- − Difficult to hold

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"More gadget than camera, the NV100 HD's style leaves little room for substance."

Samsung's premium NV range packs cutting-edge features into a curvaceous, compact body topped off with electric blue highlights. Its latest addition, the NV100 HD, epitomises this style.

But while it may tick all of Samsung's design boxes, it does so to the detriment of usability, putting aesthetics before practicality in nearly every respect. Such a compact footprint means there's nowhere to rest your thumb, and we found ourselves using the huge 3-inch touch panel as a thumb rest. But as this is where most of the camera's functions are controlled, it's all too easy to start unwillingly changing settings.

Samsung is pushing high definition as the NV100's primary selling point, but while the requisite pixels are there to meet the 720p standard, the quality isn't anywhere near that of an HD camcorder. You'll also need the external dock (around £45) in order to connect the camera to an HDTV, as the camera uses a proprietary connector.

The camera thrives in dark conditions; the pop-up flash creates natural-looking light, while the f2.8 lens allows a good amount of light in, keeping things fairly sharp. Sadly, this is about as good as it gets – image quality is poor, with heavy noise reduction, contrast tweaks and sharpening transforming every shot into a cobbled-together mash of fuzzy pixels. This is mainly due to the camera's ludicrously high pixel count; a 14MP sensor in a compact camera might wow the punters, but such a tight packing of pixels increases noise hugely. While high ISOs of 1600 and even 3200 are technically possible, anything above ISO 400 is barely usable for anything other than low-res Facebook snaps.

But then, that's what this camera is about. It's designed to look good on a night out and capture images to upload to social networking sites. As a photographic tool, it's lacking.

James De Vile

The NV100 HD epitomises the style of the NV range, offering a lot – at least on paper – for a sub-£200 compact.

Teufel
Teufel
MENU
Mac
FORMAT
sWeek

iPOD SPEAKER SYSTEM

iTeufel

£152 This new speaker brings German design to Apple's world

German outfit Teufel is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of speaker systems and now it's launching into the UK, via its website. Teufel is unusual in that as well as being the manufacturer of its speaker range, it also sells direct through the web, cutting out the middleman and passing that saving on to the customer.

This iTeufel is one of the company's new iPod-compatible offerings, which will charge your iPod as it plays. Your iPod sits pretty in a docking station nestled into a universal dock between the two speakers, while there's also a very heavy sub that sits on the floor, presumably somewhere under a desk. You also get a remote control with basic functions. The iTeufel comes resplendent in Apple white, with an aluminium top to the sub unit that resembles the Mac mini's styling.

The sound quality is good enough, but not outstanding. The sub produces a warm, rich sound, that some might criticise for being perhaps a bit muffled, but we rather liked it. Our main gripe was with the middle and top end ranges from the other speakers, which sounded merely average to us. On the whole, though, it's a decent enough sound quality for home use.

We also loved the Apple-like design and especially the volume control knob, which uses a glowing blue light to indicate your current volume level as you turn it. The volume knob also functions as an off/on switch, and when you turn the iTeufel off the light treads a slow circuit back to zero before powering off.

It's all sounding good so far, except that the iTeufel loses points for not being compatible with the latest iPods. The iPod nano 4th generation, iPod classic 120GB and iPod touch 2nd generation can't be used with the iPod because of the way it charges once docked. Apple changed the way its latest generation charges from the old FireWire standard to USB and not all manufacturers have been quick enough off the mark to upgrade their speaker docks. There's a notice on Teufel's website that says that if you connect one of the latest iPods you run the risk of damaging it, so we didn't dare pop one in to see what happened.

Provided you have an older, compatible iPod, you'll find the iTeufel a good performer at a good price point. We'd have liked some capability to sync our iPod with our Mac once docked, but few iPod docking stations have this feature, so we can't criticise it too heavily. On the whole not a bad effort at all, but Teufel needs to work on the compatibility issues.

Graham Barlow

KEY SPECS

For the 2.1 loudspeaker set: 60 Watt RMS output power, 45-20Hz (-3dB) frequency response **For the subwoofer:** 130mm cone, carbon-fibre membrane, 50 Watt RMS output power

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer: Teufel
www.teufel.eu
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492579

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Great volume indicator
- + Looks good in Apple white
- + Good enough sound quality
- − Not compatible with latest iPods
- − Not iPhone compatible either
- − No syncing capability with Mac

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Great looks, pleasant sound quality, but not compatible with the latest iPods."

WINDOWS-TO-MAC TRANSFER TOOL

Belkin Switch-to-Mac

£30 An easy way to move from PC to Mac? In theory, yes…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492581

KEY SPECS

Requires: Windows XP or Vista, Mac OS X 10.4 or 10.5, USB ports

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Vista- and *Outlook*-aware
- ⊕ Reasonably simple to use
- ⊕ Good transfer speeds
- ⊖ Some data not copied properly
- ⊖ Doesn't copy email account settings
- ⊖ Manual could give more support

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Bags of potential, but not without its problems. Should be fixable with a software upgrade, though."

Moving from Windows to Mac can be a nightmare. We know, we've just finished writing another special edition of *MacFormat*, called *MacFormat presents Switch to Mac!*, available on the high street or through **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk**, which deals with migrating your data.

Traditionally, you had two options if you wanted to move all your documents, folders, music, photos and more from a machine running Windows to a new Mac. You could either do everything manually, or you could try Move2Mac, a software and double-ended USB cable solution from Detto that enables you to connect the Mac and PC together directly and copy the files across. It's a great idea, but the dated Detto system doesn't work with Vista and it doesn't migrate email, contacts and calendars from *Outlook*. To do that, you have to buy another product, Outlook2Mac, confusingly from a different company, that packages up your *Outlook* stuff and leaves it to Move2Mac to punt it across.

The cable sports a smart dongle towards the Mac end that shows a slow-blinking white light when it's connected and a faster blink when data is being transferred.

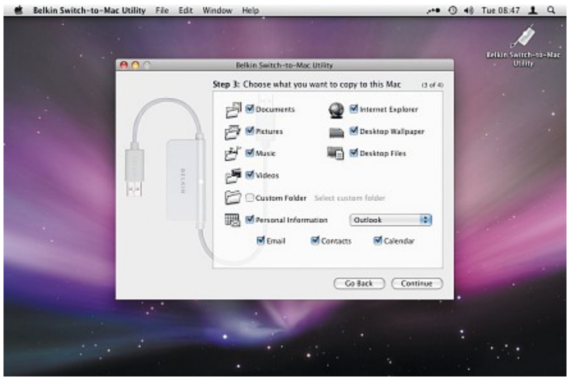
New way to transfer

Belkin, however, has taken a fresh look at data migration, and has produced its Switch-to-Mac cable and software bundle. It works with Vista as well as XP – and 10.5 as well as 10.4 – and promises to transfer email, contacts and calendars from *Outlook*, *Outlook Express*, or Vista's native *Mail*, *Contacts* and *Calendars* applications as well as moving across all the usual files and folders.

And first impressions are favourable. The manual is slim and the text a little small, but it's fairly comprehensive and contains at least some good 'best practice' information. The advice given isn't foolproof, but it's sufficient for someone with moderately good computer knowledge.

Once the helper application is launched on both computers, you tell it what you want to transfer – with a simple system of checkboxes for **My Music**, **Files on the desktop**, **Outlook email, contacts and calendars** and so on. There's also the option of specifically including other custom folders – and the files will copy across.

You can choose what information you want to transfer from your old PC simply by checking the box next to the appropriate file type.



Belkin Switch-to-Mac Utility
File
Edit
Window
Help
Tue 08:47
Belkin Switch-to-Mac Utility
Belkin Switch-to-Mac Utility
Select custom folder
Go Back
Continue

Step 3: Choose what you want to copy to this Mac (3 of 4)

☑ Documents
☑ Internet Explorer
☑ Pictures
☑ Desktop Wallpaper
☑ Music
☑ Desktop Files
☑ Videos
☐ Custom Folder
☑ Personal Information: Outlook
☑ Email ☑ Contacts ☑ Calendar

Copying from a relatively new Windows laptop running Vista SP1 and *Office 2007* to an up-to-date quad-core Mac Pro, we saw transfer speeds that hovered around 15MB/sec – perfectly respectable.

After everything has transferred, files start getting added to the matching applications on the Mac. Images from **My Pictures** are sorted into grouped-by-folder entries in *iPhoto* and your music is added to *iTunes*. The *Mail* import is a little odd – it doesn't copy across your different email account settings but does import all the mail into *Mail*'s **On My Mac** section. You have to copy it from there to your proper Inbox, Sent, Draft and custom folders, which the manual doesn't make clear.

> "Images are sorted into grouped-by-folder entries in iPhoto and your music is added to iTunes"

Most peculiar, however, was that the Switch-to-Mac system seemed to balk at some of the data. It only imported 10% of our *Outlook* contacts – *Address Book* told us there were import problems, but didn't offer details – and while it gulped in all the calendar information, it flattened multiple calendars to one 'WindowsPC' calendar in *iCal*. Belkin suggests that the *Address Book* problem could have been caused by double-byte characters – folks in our *Address Book* listed in, say, Korean script – and that they're working on it.

Copying anomalies

Regular files and folders copied oddly as well, with some folders from **My Documents** getting put inside others for no apparent reason, and some not appearing to copy at all despite the target and source folder being the same size.

All of which means that Belkin's Switch-to-Mac cable gets only a qualified recommendation from *MacFormat*. It's certainly the simplest and most current software-aware method to transfer your files from PC to Mac, and we're working with Belkin to identify what caused the problems in our testing.

We're cautiously optimistic that a software update could eradicate these teething problems, and Belkin has deliberately chosen a plug-in architecture that will enable it to add support for other source and target applications if the demand is there. **Christopher Phin**

DOCKING STATION

Griffin PowerDock 2

£25 A handy charging solution for multi-iPod households

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Griffin
www.griffintechnology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492586

KEY SPECS

Compatibility: All dock-charging iPods or iPhones (includes 8 universal dock inserts)

FOR AND AGAINST

+ Charges two iPods/iPhones at once
+ Looks nice
+ Relatively inexpensive
+ Compatible with almost all iPods
+ Heavy with grippy base
− Doesn't sync

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A simple, well-executed, convenient and stylish charging solution."

Battery life – the bane of every iPhone and iPod user's life. If you're anything like us, you're forever looking for your next power outlet or USB socket. This is especially true if you have more than one device; maybe you have an iPhone as your day-to-day pleasure and a nano to plug your Nike+ dongle thingy into when going on the pre-work run. Or maybe your partner has an iPod as well. Either way, let's face it, how many of us are one-iPod households?

The Griffin PowerDock 2 looks to solve a very specific problem. That is, the need to charge two iPods, or one iPod and one iPhone, at the same time. The unit has been designed to be a hallway-table docking station and thus acts like one. There's no ability to sync with the PowerDock 2 – it is purely for charging your iPod or iPhone. The idea is, as far as we can tell, that after a hard day at the office, you come home, plonk your device into the PowerDock – next to your partner's or your other device – before picking your iPod or iPhone up in the morning, fully charged and ready to go.

Sure, it's not a revolutionary idea, and it doesn't sync or indeed connect up to your Mac in any way whatsoever. It's supposed to sit somewhere convenient and act as a charging station. It looks nice with a stylish brushed aluminium finish, doesn't cost the earth at £25 and is actually pretty useful. It's also compatible (through supplied dock adaptors) with all but the most archaic iPods (basically those that charge by dock connector). You name it; iPod 20GB click-wheel, first-gen nano, iPod touch and of course the latest models. Early shipping units, which you may be unlucky enough to find, don't come with an iPhone 3G adaptor. It will cost you extra to get one. And if you need more than two charging docks, there's a four-dock model available for around £45.

Yes, we would have liked a charge indicator on the unit and maybe an auxiliary port. But as it stands it does the job it was made for very well.

Rob Carney

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT This Week
GRIFFIN

Sit the PowerDock 2 on your sideboard and charge your and your partner's iPod or iPhone.

ACOUSTIC AMPLIFIER

Griffin AirCurve

£15 It's a lump of plastic with a hole in it. Can it enhance your iPhone experience?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Griffin
www.griffintechnology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492590

KEY SPECS

Amplification: Passive

FOR AND AGAINST

+ Acoustically amplifies your iPhone
+ Small and compact
+ Good looks
+ Inexpensive
+ No batteries needed
− Pass-through slot is fiddly

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Gives your iPhone's speaker a much-needed boost but don't expect brilliant sound quality."

The AirCurve is, no doubt about it, one of those products that is guaranteed to draw an 'oooh' and an 'ahhh' from anyone who has the pleasure to plug their iPhone into it. The premise is a simple one: using a canal that goes from narrow to wide, the AirCurve amplifies the iPhone's downward-facing speaker. And it really works. Fire up the iPod app, select a track, plug in and the whisper-quiet(ish) iPhone speaker suddenly becomes much louder. Take it out – quiet. Put it back in – louder. And repeat. You'll probably get the £15-worth of value in the first 20 minutes by impressing your friends with what a lump of polycarbonate can do.

But let's get one thing straight. With no electronics, dock or anything like that, the AirCurve isn't going to turn your iPhone into a fully fledged sound system. What it does do however, is amplify what is a pretty dodgy speaker to an impressive level for a lump of clear plastic. And that's about it, really. The AirCurve is great for bathrooms and those other places where electricity doesn't really have a place. It's also pretty cool as an alarm clock dock. And as a portable speaker system for the iPhone it's really quite a nice solution, coupling extreme portability with average sound quality.

One major gripe though is the way you charge your iPhone while it's on the AirCurve. It would be nice to have some kind of port where you plug the dock connector in and then your iPhone is charged while sitting on the unit. However, the charging solution is pretty much a hole – and one that doesn't secure the dock connector. So actually connecting the iPhone while in the AirCurve is a real pain.

At £15, the AirCurve is good value for money. Pass-through slot issues aside, it amplifies the iPhone's puny speaker to good levels. Due to the source it's amplifying it's going to be better for podcasts and spoken word, but that said, if you're in the park and fancy a bit of AC/DC, the AirCurve is easy to carry around and easy to use.

Rob Carney

The AirCurve's a slickly designed lump of polycarbonate that will make your iPhone louder.

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT This Week
GRIFFIN

320GB PORTABLE HARD DISK

OWC Mercury On-the-Go

$150 (approx £100) Fast, portable storage

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer OWC
www.macsales.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492487

VERDICT
★★★★★
"It's not cheap, but it's fast, solid, and bundles some good hardware and software."

While the 320GB drive from Iomega (see page 90) stands apart with a healthy dollop of style, Other World Computing makes its Mercury Triple special with some welcome goodies.

Particularly gratifying is the inclusion of good-quality cables; there's one for USB, one for FireWire 800, and a very useful and surprisingly rare FireWire 800 to 400 cable. And because there are two FireWire 800 ports on the rear of the drive, you can mix up and daisychain FireWire peripherals.

There's also some useful freeware and full versions of software, including Prosoft's competent *Data Backup 3*.

Performance is generally very good. It's very slightly faster than the Iomega Helium over USB, but trounces it when connected over FireWire 800, clocking in at well over 40MB/sec for sequential read and write.

It's not sold in the UK, so you have to factor in another $40 or so for international shipping, but it's worth it.

Christopher Phin

LAPTOP RISER

Belkin Laptop CoolStrip

£8 Give your laptop a lift with this cheap add-on

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492447

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"Hardly high-tech, but nicely conceived and cheap; a good gift."

This odd, slightly kinky accessory actually does a couple of useful things. First and most importantly, it elevates your laptop a little off the desk to let the air circulate more freely under it. The fans in your laptop are only so good at pulling air across the components in your Mac that generate heat, and they need all the help they can get, both by ensuring the air intakes aren't blocked – as they might be if you were using your laptop on a soft bed – and by letting heat radiate away passively. By lifting the rear of the laptop, you're helping both, though even with temperature monitoring utilities, the difference can be difficult to see.

The rubbery stalagmites also give you an opportunity to thread cables underneath. It's perhaps not as appropriate to Apple's modern laptops as to PCs – MacBooks and others have their ports on the side, not the back – but it's handy.

The Laptop CoolStrip is available in grey and the 'ice' colour you see here.

Christopher Phin

iPOD NANO 4G SILICONE CASE

Belkin Sonic Wave Sleeve

£12 Protect your iPod from scrapes and scratches

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492511

VERDICT
★★★½☆
"Decent, basic protection for your nano, and it won't break the bank."

The world wasn't exactly waiting with bated breath for another silicone sleeve for an iPod nano, but if you got one of these most popular of Apple's portable media players for Christmas, you could do worse than to buy a Sonic Wave Silicone Sleeve from Belkin.

It's a simple design; the sleeve is open at one end, and you just push the iPod nano in. It takes a little patience – trying to jam it in by force will result in frustration – but once it's in place it will protect your iPod from scratches and light knocks. You do still have to be careful – if you get a small piece of sharp sand in between the case and the iPod, it can actually cause damage as the case keeps it pressed against the iPod's metal skin, potentially creating scratches – but it's still a decent way to give a fourth-generation nano some protection.

It doesn't quite sit correctly at the top of the screen, but you can use the controls through the silicone. The rear features the graphical 'Sonic Wave' design with some areas showing through to your nano.

Christopher Phin

PARTLY-FINGERLESS GLOVES

Etre Touchy

£15 iPhone and iPod touch friendly gloves

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Etre
www.etretouchy.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/492472

VERDICT
★★★½☆
"Cheap, decently-made and useful. Not the warmest gloves, however."

We all agree that the iPhone's innovative touch screen is a joy to use, but because it's capacitive you need to touch it with bare skin; if you have fanciful notions of protecting your hands from the cold with some gloves, you can forget about interacting with your iPhone or iPod touch's screen.

That's where these Touchy gloves come in. The tips of the finger and thumb are missing on both hands, so you can tap, flick and pinch to your heart's content. Now clearly, because these bits are removed, you're not going to get as much protection as you would with a pair of traditional gloves – and indeed they're neither lined nor particularly thick – but they're warmer than wearing no gloves at all. And they're not just useful for the iPhone, either; having finger and thumb exposed makes stuff like unlocking your front door easier.

Christopher Phin

Sold out!

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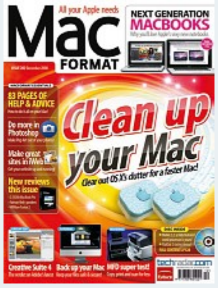

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RationalPlan Multi Project: Business tool
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- Save energy and protect files
- Master *Keynote* transitions
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macVCR 1: Screen recording application
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Next issue...

Macworld Expo '09

Our full report from the biggest Mac show on the planet

Top 100 OS X timesavers!

Discover great ways to get more done on your Mac than ever before!

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Use Photoshop's dodge & burn
- Discover instant alpha in Pages
- Master Leopard's Preview app

ALL THIS AND MORE!

**Contents subject to change*

iPhone apps

Christopher Phin picks out this month's best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

SNIPPETS

iPhone beats Windows Mobile

According to research firm Gartner, Apple's market share with the iPhone has grown so much that it has overtaken Windows Mobile, despite the fact that Windows Mobile runs on many thousands of devices, and the iPhone OS runs on only two. The iPhone's share of the market now stands at 12.9%, while the competitor Symbian's platform sales dropped by 12%, and Windows Mobile market share dropped by 3%.

RIM's BlackBerry platform remain dominant with 15.9% of the market.

Apple allowing promo licenses

Up to now, if an iPhone developer wanted a magazine such as *MacFormat* to review their app, they either had to ask it to buy the app outright or send them an iTunes Store gift certificate. The latter was difficult to do across currency zones, and cost the developer money, rather than merely depriving them of a sale. Now, Apple has allowed developers 50 'promotional licenses' per app; the limit is annoying, but presumably there to ensure Apple's revenue stream for paid-for apps is protected.

iPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

Frenzic

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£2.99 If it were any more addictive, it would require regulation

We love it; go and buy it. That's normally how a reviewer would end their review if they are impressed by a product, but we're going to spend the next 300 words explaining why we hold this view, that's really all you need to know about this little game.

The basic concept of *Frenzic* is, at first glance, very simple. Coloured slices of 'pie' appear in the central circle, and you tap on one of the six wells that surround it to drop the wedge into it. The wedges that you have to place are fixed to a particular orientation, and you have to drop them into wells that have that space free; that is to say, if you want to drop a wedge that fits into the topmost slot in any one of the wells, you must choose one that doesn't already have a piece of 'pie' in that space. Fill all six segments of a well, and it clears; keep going for as long as you can, while the timer for placing each piece speeds up as you progress.

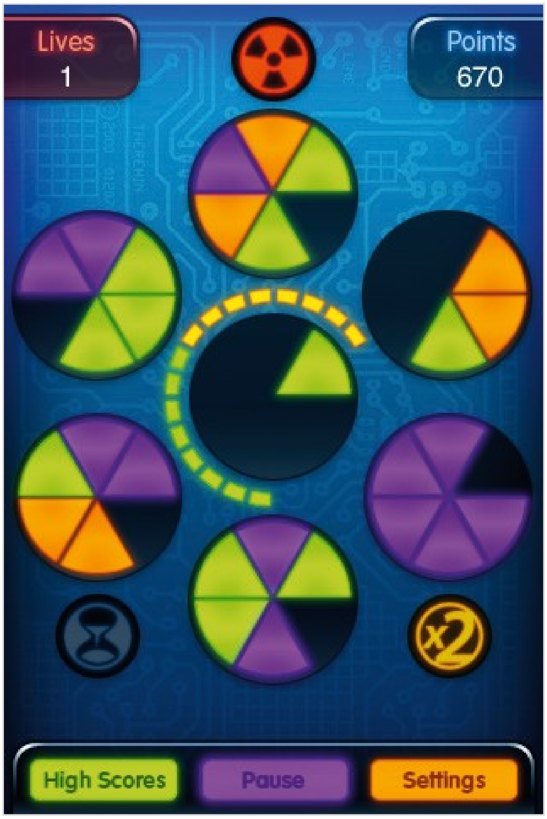
Sounds almost mindless, right? Wrong. There's all sorts of subtlety and gameplay involved in this game. For starters, you can earn some bonus points for completing a circle with wedges that are all the same colour, so you might think that this is what you should be aiming for. While it's a noble ambition, however, sometimes you have to make split-second judgements about completely mucking up your almost-perfect green well with a purple wedge just because you don't have anywhere else to place it, or take the hit and lose a life.

> "Frenzic lends itself as much to a five-minute distraction as it does to an hour-long tapathon. Give it a go now!"

What's more, three of the wells have special power-ups associated with them, which are only activated if you fill them with a single colour; you can then tap them to clear all the wells, slow the timer down, or get double points.

There are online leaderboards so you can see how you pit against other *Frenzic* players, clever rankings, and the ability to show the high scores of those around you thanks to Core Location.

Perhaps the best thing about the game – and this is the thing that elevates it above similar titles like *Bejeweled* and *Tetris* – is that it lends itself as much to a five-minute distraction as it does to an hour-long tapathon. Give it a go now!



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A superb blend of instant-pick-up-and-playability and pure gaming skill."

PACKAGE TRACKING

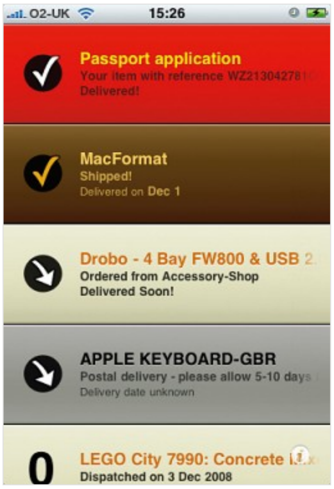
Delivery Status touch

£0.59 At this promo price, a bargain

After you've clicked the **Buy** button on Amazon, what follows is an orgy of checking the order status page to see where your new toy is. Logging into all these sites is a pain, and if you're tracking multiple packages, the inconvenience doubles each time.

Hurrah for *Delivery Status touch*, Mike Piontek's iPhone version of the *Dashboard* widget that we've been using for years. It plugs into the delivery systems for Amazon, Apple, FedEx, Parcelforce, Royal Mail, UPS, USPS and more, and consolidates all your deliveries onto one screen. The level and precision of detail varies depending on the carrier, but you can simply tap the left-hand part of each line to flip up the page, *Maps*-style, to reveal the full tracking site; some even offer map tracking.

It syncs with the Desktop widget, but we'd like a *Safari* bookmarklet to make adding items easier.



Passport application
Your item with reference WZ21304278
Delivered!

MacFormat
Shipped!
Delivered on Dec 1

Drobo - 4 Bay FW800 & USB 2
Ordered from Accessory-Shop
Delivered Soon!

APPLE KEYBOARD-GBR
Postal delivery - please allow 5-10 days
Delivery date unknown

0 LEGO City 7990: Concrete
Dispatched on 3 Dec 2008

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Polished, and packed with more features than you might expect, this is great little app."

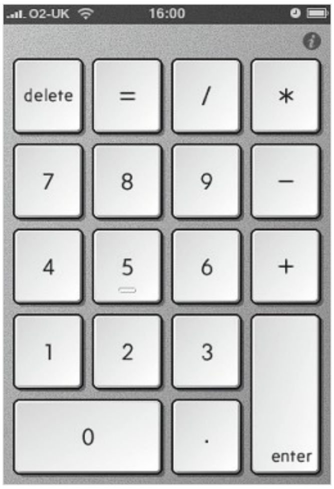
EXTERNAL NUMBER PAD

NumberKey

£1.19 Add a number pad to your MacBook

We're big fans of Apple's laptops but they do lack a dedicated number pad like you usually find on a desktop keyboard. You could buy a USB add-on number pad, but you can also simply use your iPhone by adding this handy app. It comes with skins for the MacBook, MacBook Pro and PowerBook (plus a vintage Mac keyboard) and connects with a little helper app running on your Mac over WiFi.

And that's it; it just works. It's a genuine help if you have to punch in a bunch of figures for a spreadsheet, or are simply doing a few calculations in *Calculator*, and while you don't get proper tactile feedback – and so then have to look at the iPhone as you tap – it's still eminently usable. We'd like the option of auto-launching the helper app as a daemon so it's not cluttering our Dock, mind.



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A pretty, useful application for your Apple laptop; we were surprised how often we used it."

GPS LOGGER

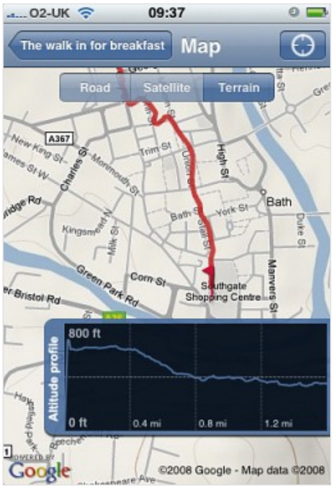
Trails

£1.19 A great geologging and geotagging tool

Trails' main feature is to record your position as you walk, jog, bike or drive, and plot it onto a map so you can see where you've been. It records speed and distance covered, and can either show the results itself – plotted onto road, satellite or terrain maps from Google – or email a standard GPX file that you can import into pretty much any app designed to work with these trails, such as Google Earth.

You can pick how often waypoints are marked, though the app has to be running and the screen not locked for it to work; add in the GPS, and it's a real battery hog. Worse, it's unstable; the developer promises big improvements in the next version.

Best of all, though, is that you can also use it with another app on your Mac such as *HoudahGeo* to geotag photos you took on a separate camera as you walked; it just matches up the timestamps.



VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Bags of promise, but wait until the imminent more stable version 1.5 is released."

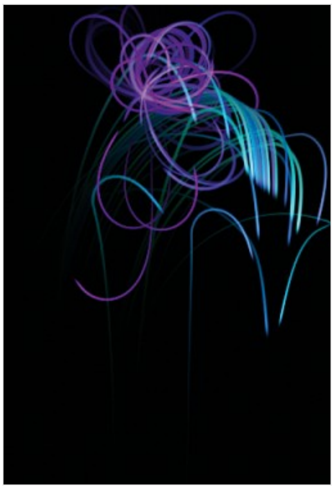
INTERACTIVE SCREENSAVER

Spawn Illuminati

£1.19 Being high may help you appreciate this…

Screensavers long ago ceased to be about protecting your screen from burned-in images, and became more about displaying pretty or useful images on your monitor when you weren't using it.

The idea behind *Spawn Illuminati* is that it displays particles on the screen that move around and make pretty patterns, but you also have some control over their behaviour. By pinching in various parts of the screen you can affect the particles' size, colour, speed and length of tails, and if you tap and hold, they swarm towards and around your fingertip. A double-tap causes each one to burst, firework-like into a whole head of new trails. The app uses the iPhone's accelerometer to determine which way is 'down' and so the particles are affected by a kind of weak gravity, dropping towards the ground no matter which way you're holding your iPhone. ●



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"More expensive than we've come to expect, but it's fun and fluid."

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell, looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

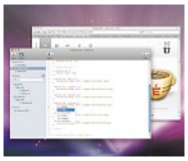
Find all reviewed titles on this issue's *MacFormat* disc.

SNIPPETS

OmniWork for the company

We used to love *OmniWeb* – almost enough to have its babies, if it wasn't for rather obvious logistical and biological issues. Anyway, *OmniWeb's* barely been updated in years, and our love for it has waned. Recently, *OmniGroup* head honcho Ken Case responded to various grumbling people, blaming a lack of engineers and then wryly noting that "we're hiring". So, if you're an *OmniWeb*-loving Mac developer, now's your chance to save it from obsolescence. www.omnigroup.com

A perfect blend



We're firmly of the opinion that *CSSEdit* is the best piece of web design software on any platform, and so we emitted an embarrassingly shrill whoop of glee upon learning about *Espresso*. Seemingly taking a cue from the likes of Coda, this will be MacRabbit's entry into the website-building field, enabling you to code pages, preview them and then bung them online. We await its debut with bated breath. http://tinyurl.com/6r8dop

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

Afloat 2.1b1

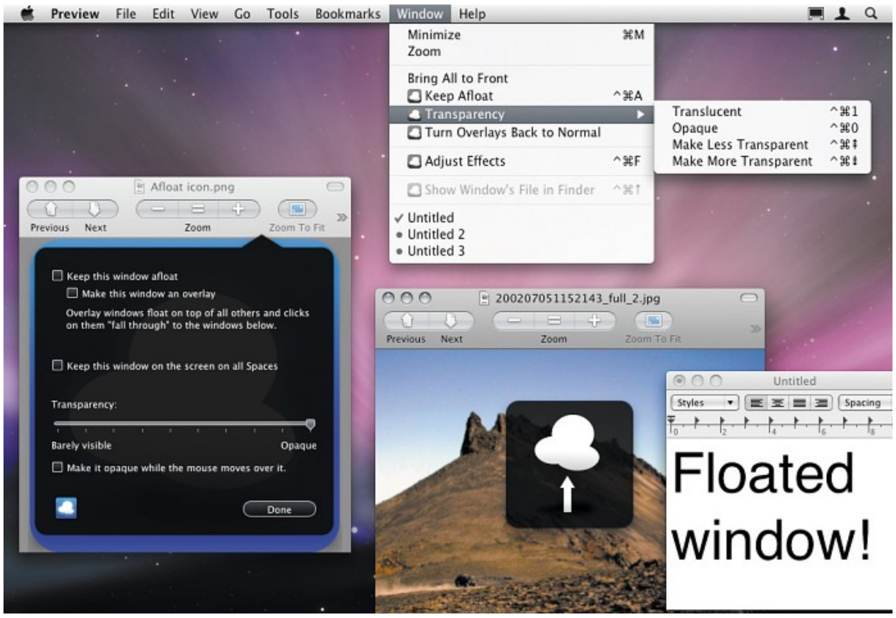
£FREE Add handy commands and shortcuts to your Window menus

The developers of *Afloat* clearly think minimising, zooming and bringing windows to the front is old hat, since the nifty plug-in they've created provides a bunch of additional options. After installing *Afloat*, said options are automatically added to the Window menu of any Cocoa application. Carbon applications aren't supported, which means no *Word*, *Finder* or *Photoshop* love, but the likes of *Pages*, *TextEdit*, *Safari* and *Mail* all happily play ball.

The first effect is the one the application is named after: selecting Keep Afloat (or pressing the relevant keyboard shortcut) makes the currently focused window sit above all others. Selecting the option again returns the window to normal. For each action, a short animation is shown over the window, and a further menu option enables all overlays to be reverted at once – that's great attention to detail.

Elsewhere, options exist for amending a window's transparency, and – insanely usefully – showing the window's file in *Finder*, using a keyboard shortcut now burned into our muscle memory. Furthermore, an 'Adjust Effects' item displays all of *Afloat's* options over the current window, in a user-friendly HUD-style palette, enabling you to fine-tune transparency settings and define whether the window should be visible in all Spaces.

If it worked in every application, *Afloat* would get a *MacFormat* Choice award. Unfortunately it doesn't, so it just falls short. (Also, it's Leopard-only, although Tiger users can grab *Afloat 1.x*.) However, it's a close-run thing, and now we've gotten used to revealing an open document in *Finder* via the ⌘+[Ctrl]+Up Arrow shortcut, you'll have to prise *Afloat* from our cold, dead fingers – because you won't take this app away from us otherwise.


Preview
File
Edit
View
Go
Tools
Bookmarks
Window
Help
Minimize ⌘M
Zoom
Bring All to Front
Keep Afloat ^⌘A
Transparency
Turn Overlays Back to Normal
Adjust Effects ^⌘F
Show Window's File in Finder ^⌘↑
✓ Untitled
• Untitled 2
• Untitled 3
Translucent ^⌘1
Opaque ^⌘0
Make Less Transparent ^⌘↑
Make More Transparent ^⌘↓
Afloat icon.png
Previous
Next
Zoom
Zoom To Fit
Done
200207051152143_full_2.jpg
Untitled
Styles
Spacing
Floated window!

☐ Keep this window afloat

☐ Make this window an overlay

Overlay windows float on top of all others and clicks on them "fall through" to the windows below.

☐ Keep this window on the screen on all Spaces

Transparency:

Barely visible — Opaque

☐ Make it opaque while the mouse moves over it.

> "Selecting Keep Afloat (or pressing the keyboard shortcut) makes the current focused window sit above all others"

CONTACT INFO

Developer infinite labs
http://infinite-labs.net/afloat/
Vendor infinite labs
http://infinite-labs.net/afloat/

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A handy add-on that fractionally falls short of greatness, due to a lack of Carbon support."

GlimmerBlocker 1.0

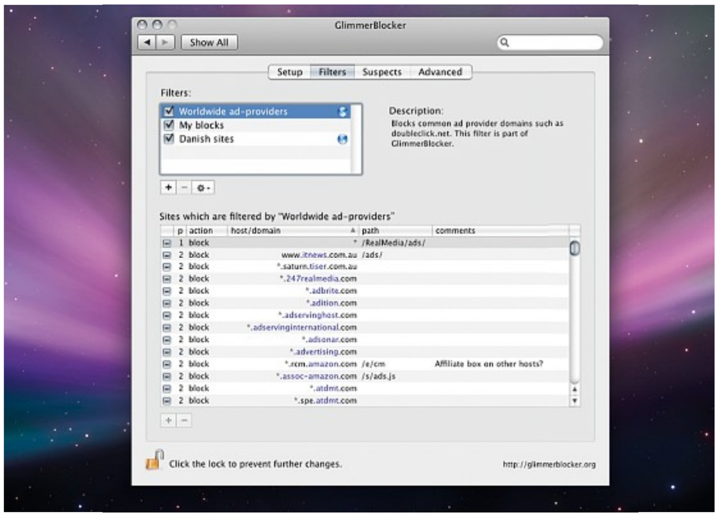
£FREE http://glimmerblocker.org/

Important factors when considering a browser ad-blocker: does it work out of the box, is it possible to extend, and does it cause instability or other browser problems? In *GlimmerBlocker*'s case, the answers are 'pretty much', 'yes', and 'not noticeably'. On activating *GlimmerBlocker*, browsers that utilise Apple's Network settings (*Safari*, *Camino*, *OmniWeb*) have far fewer adverts, which should be of particular relief to *Safari* users. It's also simple to add your own filters, using a relatively user-friendly 'suspects' model via *GlimmerBlocker*'s System Preferences pane. One of the most important aspects of *GlimmerBlocker*, however, is that it's not a hack, and therefore browser stability isn't compromised. Unfortunately, *GlimmerBlocker* is Leopard-only, so Tiger users have to stick with the likes of *PithHelmet*.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Impressive stuff – at least if you're on Mac OS X 10.5."



Filters:

☑ Worldwide ad-providers
☑ My blocks
☑ Danish sites

Description:
Blocks common ad provider domains such as doubleclick.net. This filter is part of GlimmerBlocker.

Sites which are filtered by "Worldwide ad-providers"

p	action	host/domain	path	comments
1	block	*	/RealMedia/ads/	
2	block	www.itnews.com.au	/ads/	
2	block	*.saturn.tiser.com.au		
2	block	*.247realmedia.com		
2	block	*.adbrite.com		
2	block	*.adition.com		
2	block	*.adservinghost.com		
2	block	*.adservinginternational.com		
2	block	*.adsonar.com		
2	block	*.advertising.com		
2	block	*.rcm.amazon.com	/e/cm	Affiliate box on other hosts?
2	block	*.assoc-amazon.com	/s/ads.js	
2	block	*.atdmt.com		
2	block	*.spe.atdmt.com		

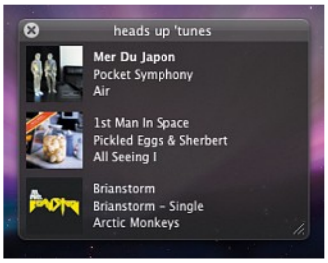
Click the lock to prevent further changes.

http://glimmerblocker.org

heads up 'tunes 0.3

(£FREE) http://mark.aufflick.com/software/heads-up-tunes/

If there was a prize for best 'didn't know you wanted it until you installed it, and then found it reasonably useful' *iTunes* extensions, *heads up 'tunes* would be in with a decent shout. Granted, it doesn't hit the dizzy heights of usefulness *I Love Stars* and *iTunesMenu* enjoy, but it's neat nevertheless. Its small panel displays the next three tracks in the currently running playlist, and should appeal to control freaks and Genius junkies alike. Extra points are awarded for the 'Appears in all Spaces' option, too.



Mer Du Japon
Pocket Symphony
Air

1st Man In Space
Pickled Eggs & Sherbert
All Seeing I

Brianstorm
Brianstorm – Single
Arctic Monkeys

VERDICT

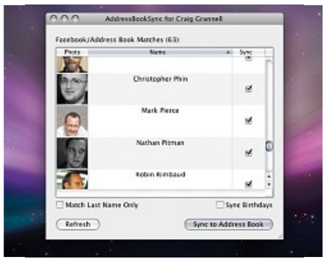
★★★☆☆

"Hardly essential, but it's free and looks good while doing its thing."

AddressBookSync 1.0

£FREE http://danauclair.com/addressbooksync/

Address Book and *Mail* helpfully prod your memory cells by appending people's photos to entries and emails. The snag is you have to add the photos yourself. However, if you've a Facebook account, *AddressBookSync* can nab pictures from your contacts' profiles. Unfortunately, *AddressBookSync's* interface is a bit creaky and the application annoyingly doesn't remember your Facebook password, but it's accurate and costs nothing. Be aware, though, that using it leads to people leering at you from emails.



Facebook/Address Book Matches (63):

Photo	Name	Sync
		☑
	Christopher Phin	☑
	Mark Pierce	☑
	Nathan Pitman	☑
	Robin Rimbaud	☑

☐ Match Last Name Only
☐ Sync Birthdays

VERDICT

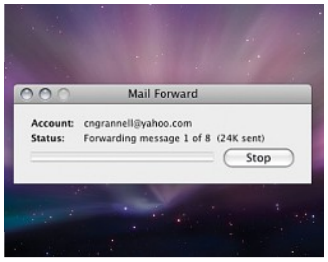
★★★½☆

"Surprisingly good first release, and the developer promises updates soon. "

Mail Forward 4.1.7

$20 (£13) www.sspi-software.com/mailfwd_macx.html

Mail Forward works exactly as is advertised – it enables you to forward mail. Specifically, you can define forwarding addresses for 20 separate email accounts (including webmail, POP and IMAP), along with a time interval for when *Mail Forward* should be triggered. In use, it performs reasonably well, although it refused to forward some emails from one of our Yahoo! accounts. Overall, though, this little app isn't bad and serves as a decent backup for when *MacFreePOPs* hits occasional problems.



Account: cngrannell@yahoo.com
Status: Forwarding message 1 of 8 (24K sent)

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Imperfect, but beats checking webmail accounts manually all the time."

PhotoExpress 2.4.4

$10 (£8) www.pathossoftware.com/PhotoExpress/PhotoExpress.html

Described by the developer as "your everyday image buddy", *PhotoExpress* is a batch processor, designed to enable you to rework a selection of images for emailing, Flickr, and so on. Functions include watermarking, rotation and the ability to save custom settings. In use, however, we found *PhotoExpress*'s interface quirky – notably its occasionally confusing and contradictory Options window, which would be better implemented as a sidebar. Also, it inexcusably truncates long exported file names. ●

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Disappointing and buggy – stick with the likes of ImageWell instead."

KEYBOARDS AND MICE

Perfect partners

Words Christopher Brennan **Photography** Gavin Roberts

We've gathered six wireless keyboard and mouse sets to put them through their paces

One factor that can make your Mac experience all the more enjoyable is a good keyboard and mouse set. The peripherals supplied with most Macs are, as you might expect, of a very high standard, but if you don't find them comfortable or usable your productivity can be hampered much more than you'd imagine. Also, the standard Mac set is wired and this can lead to untidy desktops. A wireless solution will rid your desktop of the limited range a tethered alternative gives you.

Wireless keyboards and mice are more and more prevalent, but even with the Mac's surge in market share there's still a gap where Mac OS X compatibility stands. Though all of our keyboards and mice are wireless, only two of them are specifically designed with the [Ctrl], ⌥ and ⌘ keys in the right place. The other four are all supplied for the PC world, with a Windows key and in some cases extra Windows-specific functionality keys.

> "A wireless keyboard and mouse solution will rid your desktop of the limited range a tethered alternative gives you"

Though the Apple Bluetooth Keyboard and Mouse are sold separately, we've put them together as a set here. The others come as a kit, and as such a saving is made. ►

ON TEST

Advent Wireless Optical Desktop £23

Apple Wireless Keyboard & Mighty Mouse £98

Kensington SlimBlade Notebook Set £100

Logitech Cordless Desktop EX100 £20

Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop 6000 £50

Trust Wireless Laser Desk Set for Mac £40

Like Scrabble? Then you'll adore Apple's tiled, slimline keyboard chic.

TEST ONE

Design

Combining aesthetics with functionality isn't easy

The Apple keyboard is a lesson in minimalism – with the Scrabble tile effect keys and aluminium finish, it has by far the smallest set of keys here. The Apple keyboard is so small it could conceivably be used as a portable extra should you find the need. The Mighty Mouse is a design triumph with a smooth finish that hides its multi-button nature. However, the scroll 'nipple' isn't universally loved. But the Apple kit isn't the only set here that looks good. With three detachable sections, the Kensington allows you maximum flexibility and we like its soft charcoal effect colour scheme too. Though each part requires a set of batteries, the ability to remove the numerical keypad and remote control when not in use is a useful feature.

Though ugly is probably too harsh a word for the rest of the keyboards and mice here, we're not sure that the deepest of thought went into the design process. Of the rest, the Advent comes off best and some will like its interchangeable fascias. Both the Microsoft and Logitech models are workmanlike and there's nothing wrong with that, but they certainly aren't going to complement the sleek sophistication of an iMac.

RESULTS

Advent	★★★☆☆
Apple	★★★★☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★☆☆
Microsoft	★★★☆☆
Trust	★★★☆☆

TEST TWO

Connection

How hard can it be to connect a peripheral?

Oh, the subtle ironies of life. Of all the keyboards and mice we have here, which would you suppose required the most effort to set up? Of course, it was the Apple set. All the other mice and keyboards here use a wireless dongle. All we had to do was plug this USB extra into our host Mac and the keyboard setup process began. Once we'd taken the three steps required, the keyboard and mouse were up and running. You do sacrifice a USB port, but connection couldn't be simpler.

The Apple keyboard, however, requires you to open the *Bluetooth Setup Assistant*, use a pass code to pair the device and then repeat the process for the mouse. No, it's not the end of the world, but the others here were all typing and scrolling in less time than Apple's own kit. A word of praise for the Logitech – its USB connection is attached to a meter-long cable. This enables you to place the receiver away from your Mac. All the USB dongles are small, with the Kensington being particularly tiny.

We made it about 15 metres away from our test Mac before any of the keyboards gave up, so unless you're planning on long-distance typing, all have a more than adequate range.

RESULTS

Advent	★★★★☆
Apple	★★★☆☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★★☆
Microsoft	★★★★☆
Trust	★★★★☆

ADVENT
ADVENT

Wireless is as wireless does – all the sets on test have a sufficient range.

HOW WE TESTED | Keys to success and failure

Putting a keyboard and a mouse through their paces is a relatively simple process, but it does require a variety of tests. For the keyboards we did some vanilla typing exercises to see how quickly and accurately we could get words from printed page to brain to keyboard, noting specifically any difficulties or inherent problems the keyboards presented.

It's difficult to measure typing in a wholly impartial manner as it's such an individual pursuit, but overall we looked for balance and comfort. Issues such as travel and feedback were of paramount importance, as was key spacing and the placement of any additional functionality keys.

For the mice it was again about comfort and speed, and not only of the left and right buttons, but also of the scroll wheel and any additional buttons. We used the mice over a prolonged period for mundane everyday tasks such as web browsing, a dollop of page layout work and a few games thrown in for good measure. The buttons and scroll wheels would have to combine for both ease of use and flexibility, and any additional buttons were assessed first for their placement and second for their practical usefulness.

Each of the sets was used in combination to see how well the mouse and keyboard complemented each other on the 'live stage'. We also had a long hard look at how well each of the input devices might stand up to the rough and tumble of office life, assessing the marriage of ergonomics and robustness in each case. Overall, all of the sets were given a thorough inspection across all aspects of both use and build quality.

We assessed how seamless the peripherals made daily human-computer interaction.

The Logitech keyboard has an old-school feel to it, which isn't a bad thing.

TEST THREE

Keyboard

The road to input heaven is paved with comfy keys

A perfect example of why you should never judge something by the way it looks is the Trust keyboard. On first inspection it comes across as a bit cheap and plasticky, but it is easily our favourite keyboard to type on. Bear in mind, however, that opinions may vary.

The keyboards from Kensington, Apple and Advent are all the short-stroke tile type, while the Logitech, Microsoft and Trust efforts have a deeper key-press style. The Trust keyboard has a selection of touch-sensitive extra buttons as well that work quite nicely; we particularly like the volume pad, which you simply run your finger up and down.

If you're a bit 'old school' and like the clickety-clack of a keyboard from the late 80s or early 90s then the Logitech would be a sound choice. Of the short-stroke type keyboards we are drawn to the Apple, but the Kensington has a smoother action, which seems more comfortable for extended typing.

We should also mention the [Enter] key on the Advent keyboard as only the most cack-handed typist could miss this behemoth of a key. If you're after a seriously large [Enter] key then this is the keyboard for you.

RESULTS	
Advent	★★★☆☆
Apple	★★★☆☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★★★
Microsoft	★★★★☆
Trust	★★★★☆

TEST FOUR

Mouse

The evolution of the quintessential input device

The six mice here are all incredibly different in design and style, though they do share some common elements. Each mouse has at least two buttons and a scroll wheel. Though Apple resisted the two-button mouse, it eventually relented, but still under the guise of a mouse that looks like it's still only got one button. Of all the tricks and design methodologies, it was the Logitech that we keepreturning to; its simplistic design just makes more sense. Easy to use and solid, it's just an honest-to-goodness mouse with no delusions of grandeur.

The Microsoft effort may look futuristic and have extra buttons, but for all this it simply seems too fussy; and because of the sloped design it requires more effort to use the scroll wheel. The Mighty Mouse is a pain to use too, with some ungainly left-right crossover no thanks to the one-button façade. As for the Kensington, its flat contours make it difficult to use for prolonged periods. A design that's been popular for decades, on the PC at least, remains to this day – the Logitech may lack design flourish, but it works well and eclipses the others for comfort and usability, especially over extended periods.

RESULTS	
Advent	★★★☆☆
Apple	★★★☆☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★★★
Microsoft	★★★☆☆
Trust	★★★☆☆

The curvature of the Microsoft mouse makes using the scroll wheel a chore.

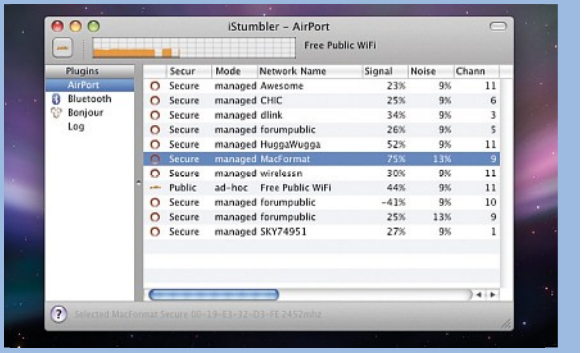
CONNECTION TECHNOLOGIES | Keeping your virtual wires from tangling

Making the connection between Mac and keyboard and mouse is a straightforward affair. Apple decided to take the Bluetooth route, and as such is the only model on test using that technology. The rest of the keyboards and mice use an RF transceiver to communicate with the Mac. Both technologies have the potential to interfere or be interfered with by other technologies that use the 2.4GHz band for communications.

Quite a few common household wireless items use the 2.4GHz band, and if you're unlucky they can cause quirky operation or, if you're even more unlucky, total failure to work. Baby monitors, cordless phones and more problematically, WiFi networks can all be affected. During our tests we didn't experience any abnormal activities and our test area had cordless phones, a WiFi network and a baby monitor in close proximity. The baby monitor did mysteriously end up on mute a few times but then we can't confirm this was anything to do with 2.4GHz spectrum interference.

The requirement to have a USB dongle taking up a precious port on your Mac is a minor inconvenience, but with Bluetooth built in the Mac does benefit from using its own-brand technologies. Lose the RF transmitter and your keyboard and mouse are useless. It'll probably be more cost effective to buy a new keyboard and mouse set should you lose your dongle, too.

In all cases the keyboards and mice were more than quick enough to respond in much the same way as a wired equivalent. The only thing you have to do is keep a spare set of replacement batteries handy.



	Secur	Mode	Network Name	Signal	Noise	Chann
○	Secure	managed	Awesome	23%	9%	11
○	Secure	managed	CHIC	25%	9%	6
○	Secure	managed	dlink	34%	9%	3
○	Secure	managed	forumpublic	26%	9%	5
○	Secure	managed	HuggaWugga	52%	9%	11
○	Secure	managed	MacFormat	75%	13%	9
○	Secure	managed	wirelessn	30%	9%	11
	Public	ad-hoc	Free Public WiFi	44%	9%	11
○	Secure	managed	forumpublic	-41%	9%	10
○	Secure	managed	forumpublic	25%	13%	9
○	Secure	managed	SKY74951	27%	9%	1

Selected MacFormat Secure 00-19-E3-32-D3-FE 2452mhz

Applications such as *iStumbler* from www.istumbler.net can help you spot wireless interference.

It might be pricey, but the Kensington set's flexibility is positively magnetic.

TEST FIVE

Value for money

How much value do those 'extras' really add?

The value of the extras supplied here is quite difficult to judge as it depends on what you use your Mac for. If you're just belting out text all day long then the Logitech is fantastic value at £20 as the keyboard is great and the mouse unfussy. The lack of anything extra is the only downside, but at such a low price there's little to complain about really.

The Apple combination may look a little pricey at £90 but remember that every key and button will function. If you're a Mac user on a budget then the Trust set offers the only other truly Mac compatible offering and there's a hefty range of buttons, too, so in terms of raw functionality it's the best value. The Kensington is a touch expensive for our liking, but you do get a lot of flexibility and if this set had an Apple badge on it we'd neither be surprised or perturbed by the price. The remote control works fine with *Front Row,* too, so it's not like the Kensington has any redundant parts to it, either.

We're going to score the Apple and Trust sets slightly higher in this section due to their native Apple compatibility for all keys and buttons, but in truth it's a pretty close run category all round.

RESULTS

Advent	★★★★☆
Apple	★★★☆☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★★☆
Microsoft	★★★☆☆
Trust	★★★★☆

TEST SIX

Compatibility

Some keyboards only let Apple users have the basics

Only two of the sets here are designed with Apple in mind; apart from the obvious Apple keyboard and mouse, Trust is the only other manufacturer to pander to Mac users. All the rest are unashamedly aimed at the Windows market. To be fair to Microsoft, Mac drivers are included, but the physical keyboard still has the Windows key. The other keyboards don't even bother listing the Mac as an option, even though they all work well with the Mac OS.

The Trust keyboard has a whole host of hotkeys that can be edited to suit, with control over *iTunes* and other Mac OS X elements – such as a *Dashboard* button and *Mail* button – included. In fact, it's a lot more integrated with the Mac than even the Apple keyboard.

On the plus side, all the mice work on a Mac, but only Trust, Microsoft and Apple deserve full marks for compatibility, as the other three don't have Mac drivers. It's a testament to Apple's operating system that these devices work with the Mac at all. We're not sure it would take months of coding to make a Mac driver that would support the extra keys on these devices, so not to supply one is a bit of a poor show.

RESULTS

Advent	★★★☆☆
Apple	★★★★☆
Kensington	★★★★☆
Logitech	★★★☆☆
Microsoft	★★★☆☆
Trust	★★★★★

The Trust keyboard is fully equipped for maximum Mac OS capability.

AND THE WINNER IS | Kensington SlimBlade Media Notebook Set

Picking a winner was a tough job because each of the keyboards and mice lacked something to set them apart form the crowd. The Apple Wireless Keyboard is design excellence in action, but the short keystrokes can make it a bit tiresome to use for prolonged periods. Also, though we like the compact dimensions, this is meant to be a desktop input device so there's no need for it to be so small. Why isn't there a number pad and why is everything crammed so tightly together? The Mighty mouse isn't so mighty either, especially in comparison to much cheaper, more comfortable alternatives. The Trust, Microsoft and Advent models are all passable, though Trust gets extra brownie points for Mac specific keys and software.

Which somewhat typically leaves us with both the most expensive and the cheapest models on test. The Kensington multi-part keyboard and the simple, old-fashioned Logitech both have failings, but overall they represent two very good keyboard and mouse sets. The Logitech is perfect for the typist with no need for extra bells and whistles but that's why it loses out to our winner, the Kensington SlimBlade Media Notebook Set. Ridiculously masculine naming and only average mouse design aside, the overall package is rather fantastic. The ability to separate the number pad and remote control is great, and offers the ultimate flexibility. We'd like it to be £20 cheaper, but even so it's worth the money.

FINAL VERDICT

★★★★½

"It's a bit expensive, but it has all the bells and whistles we need. Flexibility at its best."

Mac FORMAT Winner

KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Mac FORMAT Winner

Advent Interchangeable Wireless Optical Desktop

★★★½☆

Apple Wireless Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

★★★★☆

Kensington SlimBlade Media Notebook Set

★★★★½

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£23	£98	£100
Latest price on TechRadar	Keyboard www.techradar.com/492593; mouse 492600	Keyboard www.techradar.com/5376; mouse 51856	www.techradar.com/264472
Mac driver	No	Yes	No
Connection technology	RF	Bluetooth	RF
Batteries (keyboard)	2x AAA	3x AA	4x AA
Batteries (mouse)	2x AAA	2x AA	2x AA
Mouse Buttons	3	3	2
Scroll Wheel	Yes (Wheel)	Yes (360°)	Yes (360°)
Extra Features	Interchangeable covers	None	Remote control
Dimensions (keyboard)	430x159x24mm	279x127x19mm	330x152x19.5mm
Dimensions (mouse)	59x115x38mm	62x111x31mm	63.5x101x19mm

KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Logitech Cordless Desktop EX100

★★★★☆

Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop 6000

★★★½☆

Trust Wireless Laser Desk Set for Mac

★★★½☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£20	£50	£40
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/492605	www.techradar.com/492612	www.techradar.com/492631
Mac driver	No	Yes	Yes
Connection technology	RF	RF	RF
Batteries (keyboard)	2x AAA	2x AA	2x AA
Batteries (mouse)	2x AA	2x AA	2x AA
Mouse Buttons	3	5	4
Scroll Wheel	Yes (Wheel)	Yes (Wheel)	Yes (Wheel)
Extra Features	Extended USB receiver	None	Touch sensitive controls
Dimensions (keyboard)	447x165x22mm	487x225x45mm	471x189x25mm
Dimensions (mouse)	59x118x40mm	69.8x124x42mm	67x118x39mm

Buyers' guide

Sponsored by techradar.com Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

We're getting all excited about Macworld Expo in January, as there's plenty of speculation that we'll see new iMacs and that Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard could be making an earlier-than-expected appearance. But for now, the current line-up offers something for everyone, so turn the page to see them all.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £704 and is great for less intensive work, like the *iLife* apps. The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,369, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 17-inch version and higher-end 15-inch version have more RAM and bigger hard drives, so are great for designers needing that extra power and storage space. The thin MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included; an external SuperDrive will cost you £64.

DID YOU KNOW?

The MacBook Air's Multi-Touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4

"All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"

MacBook Air

or 2.53GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.53GHz Pros to 2.8GHz for an extra £206. The MacBook and MacBook Air only come with 13-inch screens.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £391 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £488. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £782. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,399, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune.

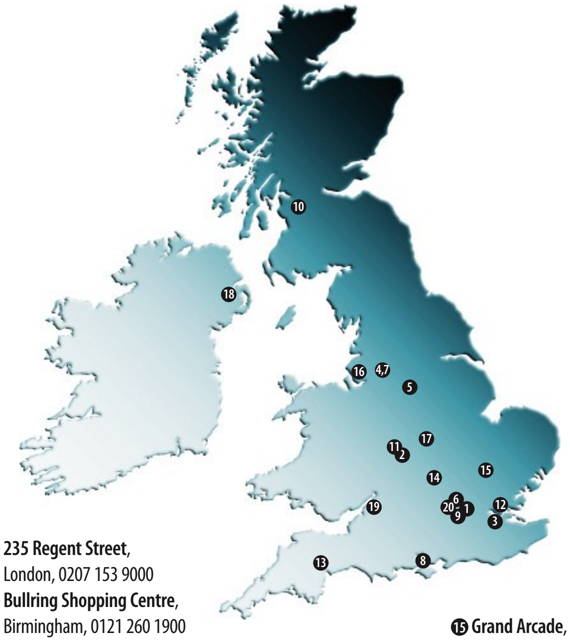
If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 20-inch version at £391 or the 30-inch HD Cinema Display at £1,173.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '08* software, so you can organise photos, make and store music, build websites and create movies to burn to a DVD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new aluminium MacBooks lack a FireWire port, but you still get one on the cheaper £719 white MacBook

APPLE STORES IN THE UK



❶ **235 Regent Street,**
London, 0207 153 9000

❷ **Bullring Shopping Centre,**
Birmingham, 0121 260 1900

❸ **Bluewater Shopping Centre,**
Greenhithe, Kent,
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❹ **Trafford Centre,**
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❾ **Bentall Centre,**
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⓭ **24 Princesshay,**
Exeter, 0139 231 6600

⓮ **26 Midsummer Place,**
Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650

⓯ **Grand Arcade,**
Cambridge, 01223 253 600

⓰ **Unit 95, Paradise St (West),**
Liverpool, 0151 472 2600

⓱ **Upper Mall, Highcross,**
Leicester, 0116 201 1900

⓲ **1 Victoria Square,**
Belfast, 028 9016 1900

⓳ **11 Philadelphia St,**
Cabot Circus, Bristol,
0117 900 3450

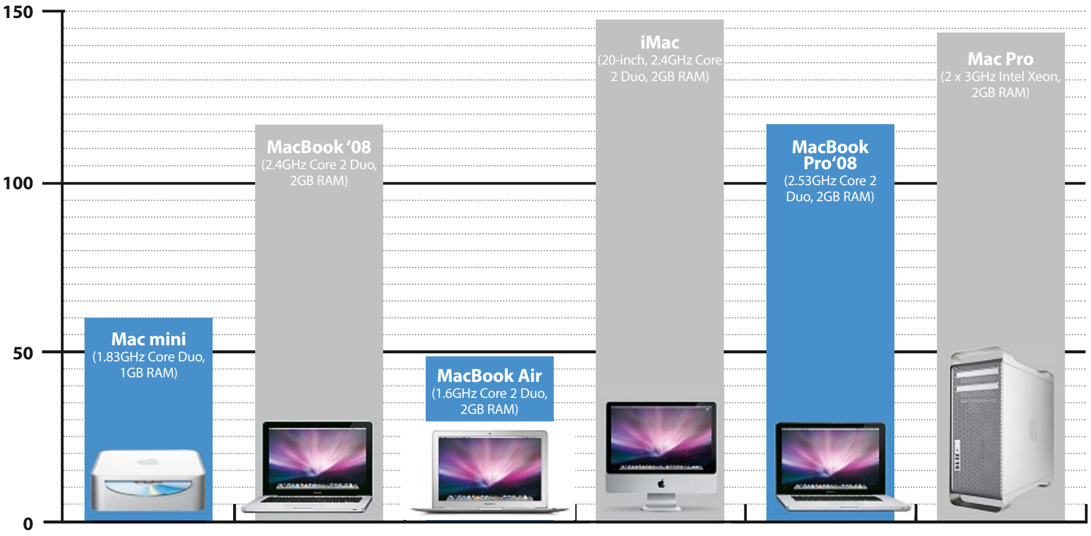
⓴ **Westfield London,**
Ariel Way, London
0208 433 4600

BENCHMARKS | Which Mac is fastest?

We've used Xbench (www.xbench.com) to compare Apple's latest Macs. We've taken its overall score on each Mac as a rough guide to its overall system performance and speed. Please remember that this result is only an indication of the system's overall performance, and doesn't take into account some aspects, such as the improved 3D graphics capabilities of the new aluminium MacBook and the even better 3D graphics performance of the new MacBook Pro.

THE RESULTS (Xbench)

Mac mini	**67**
MacBook	**127.49**
MacBook Air	**49.68**
iMac	**146**
MacBook Pro	**129.1**
Mac Pro	**140.45**



Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE

iMac

Updated April 2008

20-inch 2.4GHz

£782

- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB memory
- 250GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory
- Built-in iSight video camera
- AirPort Extreme
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **Great value**

⊖ **Bigger HD would be nice**

20-inch 2.66GHz

£929

- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB memory
- 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
- Built-in iSight video camera
- AirPort Extreme
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **2GB memory**

⊖ **Wired mouse and keyboard**

24-inch 2.8GHz

£1,125

- 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB memory
- 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
- Built-in iSight video camera
- AirPort Extreme
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Impressive specification**

⊖ **£34 extra to go wireless**

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,359

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme
- 2GB memory
- 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory
- Built-in iSight video camera
- AirPort Extreme
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Fastest ever iMac**

⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

MacBook Pro

Updated October 2008

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,369

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB (two SO-DIMMs)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 256MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Great new aluminium body**

⊖ **Screen still small**

15-inch 2.53GHz

£1,712

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (DDR3 SDRAM – 2x2GB)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Improved HD space and RAM**

⊖ **Upgrade options could cost**

17-inch 2.5GHz

£1,908

- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x SO-DIMMs of DDR2 SDRAM)
- 320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Aluminium body
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Good upgrade options**

⊖ **Puts a big dent in the wallet**

Mac Pro

Updated January 2008

One 2.8GHz Quad

£1,399

- One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 2GB (2x1GB) RAM
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
- 320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- One 16x SuperDrive
- Mac OS X Leopard
- Apple Mighty Mouse
- Apple Keyboard
- Five USB ports
- Two FireWire 400 ports
- Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Great value for money**

⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

Two 2.8GHz Quad

£1,712

- Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 2GB (2x1GB) RAM
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
- 320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- One 16x SuperDrive
- Mac OS X Leopard
- Apple Mighty Mouse
- Apple Keyboard
- Five USB ports
- Two FireWire 400 ports
- Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Great configuration options**

⊖ **Upgrade options tempting**

Two 3GHz Quad

£2,202

- Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 2GB (2x1GB) RAM
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
- 320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- One 16x SuperDrive
- Mac OS X Leopard
- Apple Mighty Mouse
- Apple Keyboard
- Five USB ports
- Two FireWire 400 ports
- Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Two 3GHz Quad processors!**

⊖ **Too many upgrade choices?**

Two 3.2GHz Quad

£2,701

- Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 2GB (2x1GB)
- ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
- 320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
- One 16x SuperDrive
- Mac OS X Leopard
- Apple Mighty Mouse
- Apple Keyboard
- Five USB ports
- Two FireWire 400 ports
- Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **The fastest Mac ever**

⊖ **Do you really need it?**

Mac mini

Updated August 2007

1.83GHz 80GB

£391

- 1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB memory
- 80GB hard drive
- 2MB shared L2 cache
- Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
- Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme
- Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ **Excellent value for money**

⊖ **Poor for 3D graphics**

2.0GHz 120GB

£488

- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB memory
- 120GB hard drive
- 4MB shared L2 cache
- Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
- Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ **More hard drive space**

⊖ **Still not ideal for gamers**

MacBook Air

Updated October 2008

13-inch 1.6GHz

£1,271

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Micro DVI port
- MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Thintastic!**

⊖ **SuperDrive is an extra £65**

13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,761

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 128GB solid-state drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Micro DVI port
- MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Great lower price!**

⊖ **Still needs extras**

MacBook

Updated October 2008

13-inch white 2.1GHz

£704

- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 1GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
- 120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
- Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Great value**

⊖ **Could use more RAM**

13-inch 2.0GHz

£929

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
- 160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Stunning new look**

⊖ **No FireWire port**

13-inch 2.4GHz

£1,125

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
- OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Illuminated keyboard**

⊖ **MacBook Pro only £250 more**

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

> "The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your *iTunes* window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices, esecially now that Apple has announced new prices and new looks.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

The best compromise is the new-look iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5 inch diagonal screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the improved 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient for many. The choice of colour now is vast, and there's defintitely a nano for everyone. These are going to be big sellers!

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%

iPod classic

Updated September 2008

iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2008

iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
- 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB

£44

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
- 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

iPod touch 8GB

£165
Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB

£214
Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB

£283
Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod nano

Updated September 2008

iPod nano 8GB

£107
Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146
Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
Tuesday 9
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

iPhone 3G

Updated June 2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract
Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract
Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences .

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's (admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOPGEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★

ISSUE 187

Price: £27
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
⊖ May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth

⊕ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
⊖ Odd acceleration behaviour

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP6600D ★★★★★

ISSUE 174

Price: £87
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53946
Key specs: Thermal inkjet; A4 prints; 9,600x2,400dpi; six-ink printing; duplex printing; DVD/CD label printing; memory card readers; PictBridge socket

⊕ Large LCD display; twin paper sources; DVD/CD label printing; duplex printing
⊖ Slight fuzz on black text; slow compared to non-photo printers

"The iP6600D is a versatile printer giving quality prints, with more bells and whistles than a Morris-dancing troupe of football refs."

HP Photosmart A618

★★★★★

Price: £81 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: 3-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi

⊕ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
⊖ Bit slow

Canon PIXMA iP100

★★★★★

Price: £147 **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; USB 2.0; Bluetooth

⊕ Compact; excellent results; strong build
⊖ Lack of camera card slots

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display ★★★★★

ISSUE 152

Price: From £391
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 20-inch or 30-inch screen, Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible

⊕ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
⊖ No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its range of Cinema Displays. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."

Eizo FlexScan S2110W

★★★★★

Price: £505 **Reviewed:** Issue 182
Full review: www.techradar.com/48701
Key specs: 1,680x1,050 res; 2x digital DVI, USB2.0

⊕ Smart features; brilliant picture; easy to use
⊖ Expensive

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

★★★★★

Price: £532 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res

⊕ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon CanoScan 8600F ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £149
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225903
Key specs: Charge Coupled Device; A4 max print size; document/film scanner; FARE level 3 scratch removal, 7x EZ buttons; Adobe *Photoshop Elements 4; LaserFast SE; ScanGear CS*

⊕ Excellent software bundle; produces speedy scans; good quality results
⊖ Quite bulky

"It's fast, versatile, not too expensive and comes with a very impressive bundle of software. This is the best scanner by far."

Canon PIXMA MP610

★★★★★

Price: £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi

⊕ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
⊖ Slow duplex printing

Canon PIXMA MX700

★★★★½

Price: £124 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR

⊕ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
⊖ No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★

ISSUE 197

Price: £113
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

⊕ Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."

★★★★★

Canon EOS 40D

Price: £560 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

⊕ Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
⊖ Some idiosyncratic functions

★★★★½

Pentax Optio M50

Price: £82 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

⊕ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
⊖ Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station

★★★★★

ISSUE 181

Price: £116
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."

★★★★★

Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

⊕ Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
⊖ Not the best looking device

★★★★★

Apple AirPort Express

Price: £62 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes is great; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

JVC GR-DF470EK ★★★★★

ISSUE 176

Price: £264
Web: www.jvc.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/72721
Key specs: 15x optical zoom, 700x digital zoom; 2.5-inch LCD; 2.6-39mm focal length; MiniDV media – 8MB card supplied; mic socket; remote; 400g; 75x111x74mm

⊕ Solid build; great value for money; lots of features
⊖ May need to keep manual at hand

"It's packed with features and built to last. The JVC GR-DF470EK is a quality camera at a staggeringly affordable price."

★★★★½

Canon HV30

Price: £582 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD; fast imports
⊖ Cumbersome to use

★★★★½

Canon HG10

Price: £559 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

⊕ Superb images; native support for *iMovie '08*
⊖ Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★

ISSUE 182

Price: £80
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; *Dantz Retrospect* backup software; FireWire 400 cable

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

★★★★★

Western Digital My Book Pro

Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 173
Full review: www.techradar.com/47284
Key specs: 500GB capacity; FireWire 400/800/USB 2.0

⊕ Slim build; lightweight; elegant; brushed metal
⊖ Too delicate for some people's tastes

★★★★☆

Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4

Price: £103 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

⊕ Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
⊖ Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY...

a monitor

1 WHAT TYPE?
The old-style CRT monitor is yesterday's news, but there's a new style of technology that's competing with LCD – it's LED, and it's used in Apple's new 24-inch LED Cinema Display.

2 HOW DOES LED WORK?
LED uses solid-state light sources that light up very quickly, creating an 'instant on' effect. LEDs are mercury-free, so are kinder to the environment.

3 WHAT IS MINI DISPLAYPORT?
DisplayPort is a new industry standard, but Mini DisplayPort is Apple's proprietary implementation of it. Apple would obviously like other manufactureres to adopt it. At the moment however it means that you can only use its new 24-inch Cinema Display with a new MacBook or MacBook Pro.

4 BUILT-IN EXTRAS
Most displays have USB ports built-in. Apple's 24-inch Cinema Display has more features than most, with a built-in iSight, speakers and a MagSafe connector for charging a MacBook and three USB ports.

5 PRICE
Apple's new 24-inch Cinema Display is pricey at £635. You can get much cheaper displays, but they'll have fewer features and won't offer the same high quality.

Editor's choice

Where Graham's cash is heading…

Griffin AirCurve

Price £15
Manufacturer Griffin
Web www.griffintechnology.com

Mac FORMAT This Week

I loved the Griffin AirCurve from the moment I saw it, or rather heard it, since it's a simple acoustic amplifier stand for your iPhone that requires zero power.

Pop your iPhone into the stand and the acoustics of the stand naturally amplify your iPhone's speaker. How's that for green energy Apple? But a word of warning: it won't work with the iPod touch – the speaker is in a different position, so the touch won't feed the audio into the AirCurves' acoustic channel.

As soon as you're over the initial wow factor you start to notice the lack of serious volume, but the AirCurve is well worth its humble £15 price tag. You can even thread your dock connector cable through it, so you can sync and charge your iPhone. It's not a proper desktop speaker system, but as a no-fuss way to amplify your iPhone it's ideal. It's also great for spoken word recordings, so pop it next to your bed and listen to an audiobook before dozing off.

"Innovation like this deserves to be recognised. One of the best iPhone accessories we've seen!"

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £391
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

⊕ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
⊖ Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

★★★★★

Acoustic Energy Aego-M

Price: £126 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/100419
Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

⊕ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
⊖ Not many extra features

★★★★★

Dynaudio MC15

Price: £686 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458611
Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS

⊕ Excellent sound; good design and build; easy setup
⊖ Expensive

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: 8GB, £98; 16GB, £148
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/464874
Key specs: Silver, black, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink and PRODUCT (RED); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 4hrs video; 90.7x38.7x2mm; 36.8kg

⊕ Looks fab; great prices and capacities; vertical screen works well; accelerometer
⊖ No charging via FireWire

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone. The available array of colours with this version are gorgeous, too!"

★★★★½

Apple iPod classic

Price: £159 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/226641
Key specs: 120GB; black or silver; video playback

⊕ Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
⊖ Must re-buy purchased games

★★★★½

Apple iPod touch

Price: From £156 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/464926
Key specs: 8,16 and 32GB available; WiFi browsing

⊕ Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
⊖ Not cheap!

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Gear4 BluEye ★★★★★

ISSUE 178

Price: £41
Web: www.gear4.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/226518
Key specs: For fourth- and fifth-gen iPods, iPod mini and iPod nano

⊕ Answer calls by remote; great sound quality; voice-activated dialling
⊖ Nothing at all

"Quite possibly the best iPod accessory we've ever seen. It really is that good and deserves the accolade. Buy one now!"

★★★★★

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

Price: £91 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: 10m range; easy USB connection

⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
⊖ High price

★★★★★

Macally TunePro Flat Panel

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

⊕ Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
⊖ Remote sold separately

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★

ISSUE 200

Price: £195
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

⊕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
⊖ Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product –and that's before you've added a USB interface."

★★★★★

Line 6 Pocket Pod

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/457821
Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack

⊕ Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
⊖ Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions

★★★★★

Imono HI-2503

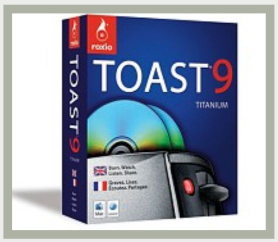
Price: £17 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0

⊕ Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
⊖ No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★

ISSUE 195



Price: £57
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; *QuickTime 7* or higher

+ Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
– Expensive upgrade

"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."

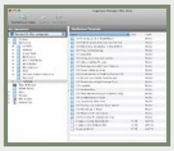
Scrivener 1.0

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£24) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

+ Reliable; great for writers; top export options
– Nothing

Sharpcast SugarSync



★★★★½

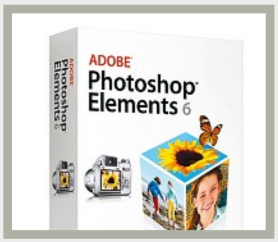
Price: From $29 (£19) **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/469148
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4; 512MB RAM

+ Access files when Mac is off; fast after initial upload
– No file versioning; no entry-level free version

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★

ISSUE 194



Price: £55
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive

+ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
– Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

Lemke Software GraphicConverter

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

+ Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
– Could do with a visual facelift

Softpress Freeway Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X10.4.11+

+ Improved performance; great new Actions
– Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

GAMES

Spore ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: £29
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1.024MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space for installation

+ Great looks; design your world; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
– Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment."

Enemy Territory: Quake Wars

★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: Intel Core 2 Duo; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.5.1

+ Objective-based gameplay; meaty weapons
– Looks bland in places

Sid Meier's Pirates!

★★★★★

Price: £15 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: PPC/Intel 1.6GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4

+ Atmospheric looks; lots of setup options; sea battling
– Nothing. It's great!

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

ISSUE 189

Price: £312
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; *QuickTime 7.2* or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive

+ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
– Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Plasq Doozla 1.1

★★★★★

Price: $25 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

+ Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
– Nothing at all

Apple iTunes 8

★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551
System reqs: Intel/PPC G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9

+ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
– Genius recommendations affect performance

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MUG OF THE MONTH

Bracknell-Forest MUG

The Bracknell-Forest MUG currently meets at the K2 building in Bracknell once a month. If you didn't know, Bracknell-Forest is roughly half-way between Reading and the M25. The group has been going for a number of years now, and provides an opportunity for like-minded Mac users to meet up and share their passion for all things Apple. It's also a platform for local talent to show off their skills, creating an awareness of local business that use Macs.

The group meets on the first Thursday of every month. The most recent meeting, in December, featured the promise of Christmas refreshments and plenty of prize giveaways, but it might be a bit much to expect such treats on every occasion. Generally, meetings vary between informal evenings, where members chat among themselves about areas of interest, to question-and-answer sessions that allow members to raise any issues they might have and to get help from the group. Other meetings have a speaker talking about an area where they have some level of interest and expertise.

If you live in the Bracknell-Forest area you should definitely head along to one of the group's meetings, especially since it costs nothing to join. There may be a small donation required for the cost of hiring the room, though. You can find out all the details of how to join the Bracknell-Forest MUG on its website, which is at **www.bfmuguk.org.** ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. **To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org**

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Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

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SNIPPETS

LEGO treasure hunt

As you read this, the latest LEGO game, *LEGO Indiana Jones*, will be available for purchase. Using the same great formula as the *LEGO Star Wars* games and featuring all the iconic scenes from the original trilogy of films, this is one for both kids and their parents to enjoy. We've already played a console version of the game and it's (whip) cracking good fun. We'd be surprised if that didn't apply to the Mac port. **http://indianajones.lego.com/en-US/default.aspx**

Latin lessons

Following on from the success of *Global Conflicts: Palestine*, Serious Games is set to educate us in the political realities of Latin America with their latest *Global Conflicts* release. Available in both consumer and teacher versions, *GC: Latin America* enables students and players to explore the complexities of police corruption, genocide and poverty in the region through a 3D adventure structure. Players don the role of an investigative journalist dropped at the Mexican border. **www.seriousgames.dk**

MMOG

World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King

OUT... NOW

Is it time to make a return trip to WoW?

Lovers of trivia might be interested to learn that *Wrath of the Lich King* sold 2.8 million copies in the first 24 hours after its release. Which is a whopping 400,000 more copies that the previous expansion sold on its release. For those who have never played *WoW*, or more likely those who played it and have since given up the habit, it's worth outlining some of the new stuff as it might just persuade you to jump right back in again.

Most importantly perhaps, there's a whole new continent to explore. The icy wastes of Northrend (first seen in *Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne*) are home to new quests, dungeons, monsters and the undead armies of the Lich King himself.

There's a new character class, so when certain criteria have been met you can sample the delights of the new Death Knight Hero class. The level cap has been increased to 80, providing more levelling up fun for existing players, while mechanisms are in place for new players to level up to 70 more quickly so they can start to enjoy *WotLK*'s benefits sooner.

Other highlights include: a new Inscription profession that permanently enhances spells and abilities; siege weapons and destructible buildings that promise a new level of destructive opportunities; new player vs player mechanics and new battlefields in which to try them out; and a handful of fun new character customisation features.

So what does this all add up to? While critics have flipped over the new content, the general public have a more balanced view about things and while lapping it up, they see *WotLK* as a further expansion of the game rather than a major overhaul. We urge anyone who hasn't already played *World of Warcraft* to do so: it remains a mind-blowing experience. But lapsed players might need a more substantial reworking than this to persuade them back into the fold. ●

> "The icy wastes of Northrend are home to the undead armies of the Lich King himself"

A Hunter suddenly realises he's wearing his grandma's slippers.

Northrend is an inhospitable place – the ideal backdrop for a face-off.

Death Knights are known for their lich fashion sense and glowsticks.

ACTION RPG

Jade Empire: Special Edition

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£35 Martial arts and role-playing combine in this magical adventure

CONTACT INFO

Developer BioWare
www.bioware.com
Vendor GameTree Online
www.gametreeonline.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo processor, 1,024MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, ATI X1600, NVIDIA 7300 GT, or X3100 Intel integrated graphics chip, (Intel GMA950 not supported), 4.8GB hard drive space, keyboard and mouse

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Great story
- ⊕ Fun combat
- ⊕ Entertaining quests
- ⊕ Interesting characters
- ⊕ Still looks good
- ⊖ Relatively short

VERDICT
★★★★★

"It's a bit short physically, but this is an epic tale and the slick combination of combat and adventuring works beautifully."

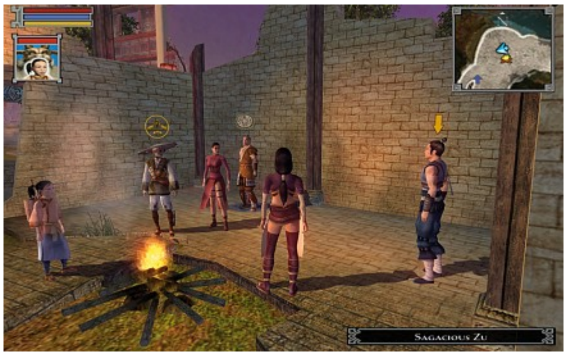
After a few own goals, Transgaming's Cider technology seems to have found its feet and through the GameTree Online portal we're now getting a steady stream of half-decent PC games coming to Mac on digital download.

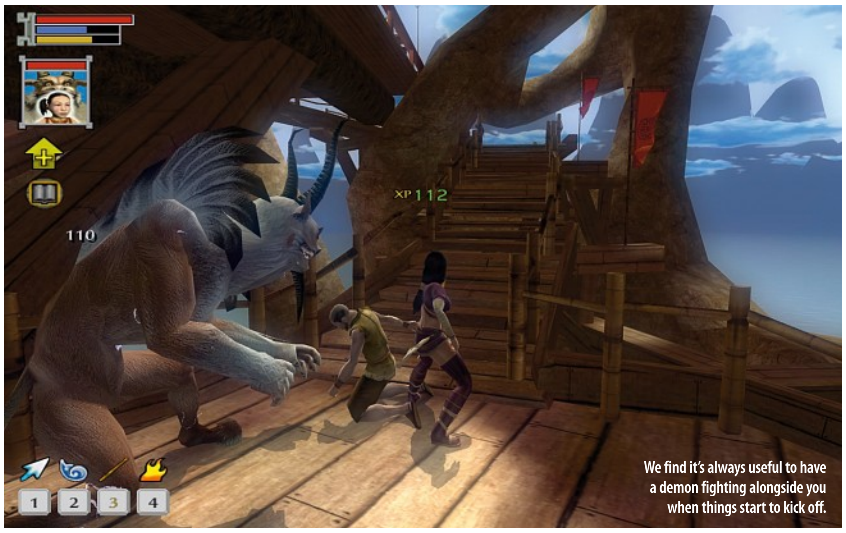
Jade Empire, which appeared on Xbox back in 2005, came from esteemed developer BioWare, the brains and programming brawn behind such triumphs as *Neverwinter Nights*, *Knights of the Old Republic* and *Baldur's Gate*. Having seen the game warmly received on Xbox, it was ported to PC in 2007, and thanks to Transgaming's Cider technology it now falls into the laps (but not necessarily the laptops) of Mac gamers via GameTree Online's digital download service.

Jade for the Mac

So, *Jade Empire*'s taken a good few years to reach the Mac platform, but the fact that it's here should be a reason for celebration rather than derision. It remains a superb game and thanks to its high production values, great story, solid voice acting and slick fusion of combat and role-playing elements (not to mention the none-too-shabby visuals), it should be right near the top of any Mac gamer's 'To Download' list (assuming they haven't already played it on another hardware platform).

This is a collection of the friends and outcasts you hook up with along the way. They're a strange bunch, but pleasant enough.





We find it's always useful to have a demon fighting alongside you when things start to kick off.

Jade Empire's story is a convoluted yet rewarding one. As a gifted student at a martial arts academy, it soon becomes apparent that you are destined for great things: a destiny that is somewhat accelerated by the brutal destruction of your home and the abduction of certain loved ones. Along the way you'll get to meet such diverse characters as Master Li, the brother of the Emperor (as well as your tutor); Sagacious Zu; some mad goggle-eyed scientist bloke who creates flying machines; various evil members of the Gao family; and finally a couple of enigmatic and thoroughly ruthless masked fiends who are behind the whole sorry tale of woe that underpins your quest.

"You'll have to learn how to switch between attacks, apply focus, use Chi and employ avoidance tactics"

Part of the joy of playing *Jade Empire* is the fact that it's neither a hardcore Japanese style role-playing game or a full-on beat-'em-up. Instead it combines the two genres, each being watered down enough to make the game accessible, but retaining sufficient complexity to keep the story both interesting and exciting.

The fighting in this version of *Jade Empire* is excellently executed. Granted, it's not as intuitive as the controls of the original console version, but it is to BioWare's credit that even when played via a keyboard/mouse configuration it's easy to both learn and become proficient at managing multiple moves and abilities, as well as stringing them together in varied balletic combos. And doing so is essential to success. Early stages aside, this is not the kind of game that rewards mindless button mashing. As you progress, so the enemies become stronger and more intelligent, meaning that simply clicking away at MOUSE1 won't do at all. Instead you'll have to learn how to switch between attacks, apply focus, use Chi, employ avoidance tactics, defend, and heal: all during a single encounter.

In terms of it's RPG credentials, *Jade Empire* can feel justifiably pleased with itself. A comparison with *World of Warcraft* is appropriate insofar as progression through the adventure relies upon speaking to NPCs (non-player characters), acquiring quests and gaining experience points with which to enhance your character's abilities and level up. All the while the player also needs to concentrate on the main narrative thread and keep plugging away at the game's primary objectives. However, in spite of the secondary quests, this is still very much a compact and linear adventure.

A narrative joy

Nevertheless what's here is positively epic in its sweep, beautifully presented and wonderfully scripted. The visuals, despite being a few years old, still retain the capacity to inspire awe, and while many of the cut scenes are appallingly blocky (what's going on with compression here?) the scenes between levels still manage to pique the interest of the player and keep the story thundering along at a riveting pace. ●

PUZZLE GAME

World of Goo

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

$20 A puzzle game quite unlike any other. It's gooey, but it's not a mess

CONTACT INFO

Developer 2D Boy
www.2Dboy.com
Vendor 2D Boy
www.2Dboy.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel processor or PowerPC G4 or better, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 80MB free hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Beautiful looks
- ⊕ Simple idea
- ⊕ Interesting physics
- ⊕ Ingenious levels
- ⊕ Variety of challenges
- ⊕ Online tower challenge

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Beautiful and brilliant. World of Goo is intriguing, inventive, infuriating… it's like a weird, surreal construction kit."

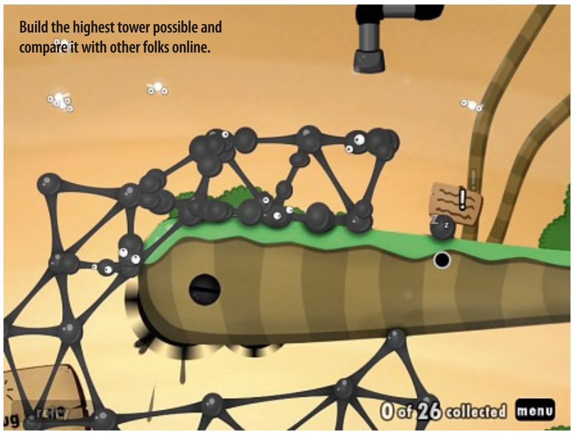
With so many hidden object games and gem-matching puzzlers about, it's easy to dismiss the casual gaming scene as a morass of constantly recycled and regurgitated rubbish. But wade through the sloppier products and there are plenty of genuine treasures to be found.

One outfit to keep an eye on is 2D Boy, which has just released *World of Goo* on the Mac platform. This small independent development team (it's not just one two-dimensional boy) consists of two former employees of major software companies, and so is able to bring a high design ethic to smaller scale, casual games.

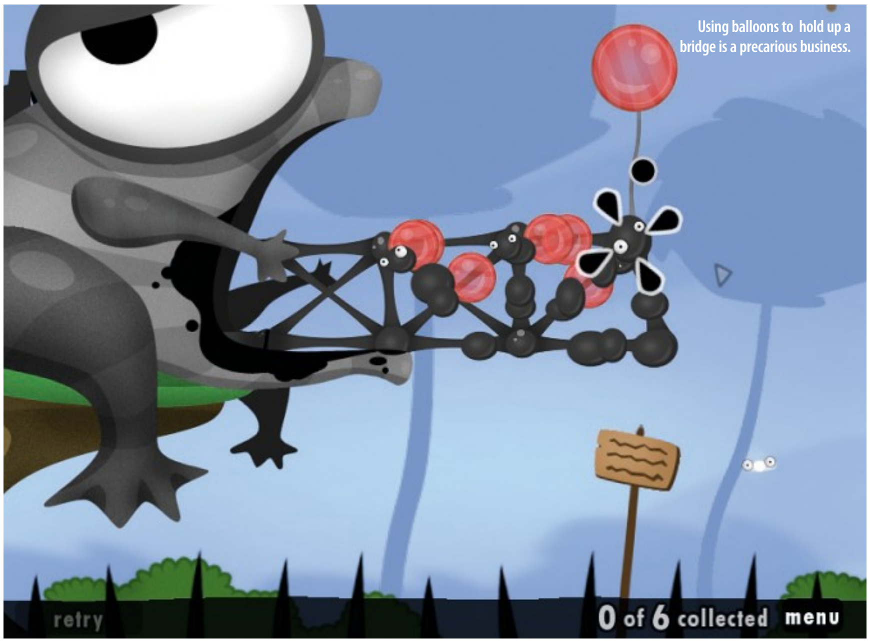
World of Goo, which has already debuted on Nintendo's download service WiiWare, now looks set to enchant PC and Mac owners with its wonderfully realised concept.

Blobs of goo

The idea is a simple one: the game is full of little blobs of goo that need to be guided towards an exit pipe in order to get sucked away to… oh look, let's not get tangled up in yet another contrived puzzle game plot. That you have to get blobs of goo to an exit point is all the information you need. The story isn't going to help you in that challenge.



Build the highest tower possible and compare it with other folks online.



Using balloons to hold up a bridge is a precarious business.

It's how you achieve this end that's the clever part. Invariably, each level's exit pipe is way up high and out of reach of the goo blobs. In order to secure their escape you need to position them so that they link up with each other to form triangular sections like girders on a bridge. Build your tower of blobs high enough, and any remaining blobs will climb up it to the exit. Be warned though, on each level you have a target number of blobs to rescue. Build your tower inefficiently and there won't be enough blobs left to complete the objective.

> "The blobs, and any structure you construct with them, are subject to the realistic laws of physics"

This in itself probably sounds like quite good fun, but it gets better… much better. You see the blobs, and any structure you construct with them, are subject to the realistic laws of physics. As a result, if you build the tower in a sloppy fashion it will quickly topple over and you'll never reach the exit.

Even when you're constructing a tower sensibly it remains rather wobbly, so you also have to be aware of some of the other hazards present in the many superbly designed levels. For example, it's not necessarily a tower you always have to build. In one level, you need to construct a horizontal bridge structure, the only problem being that as the bridge gets longer it sags and will destroy itself on pikes that have been positioned below it. The answer is to attach balloons to the bridge to make it rise back up again. But there are also spikes at the top of the screen that threaten to pop the balloons. It's a fiendish problem, and this sort of cunning design isn't just an isolated incident, either.

On other levels, you'll find that you need to build the bridge on an object that isn't fixed to the ground, so you're subject to ever-shifting foundations and have to be very careful about maintaining your tower's balance. It's the sort of challenge that will keep you at it for hours.

Blob variables

In addition, variations on the blobs are introduced that add extra layers of complexity to the puzzles. Green blobs, for example, can be detached and reused, which is handy if there aren't enough blobs to reach the exit. In this case you might need to wedge your tower between nearby walls, then take blobs from the bottom of the tower to place them on the top, thus working your way up to the exit.

One added bonus is the *World of Goo* Corporation feature. When you complete a level the rescued blobs get sent to the Factory, where you can attempt to build the biggest tower possible and then compare sizes with other players in a sort of interactive hall of fame. It's yet another reason to buy this inventive and quirkily brilliant game. ●

In association with **deliver2mac.com**

PLATFORM PUZZLER

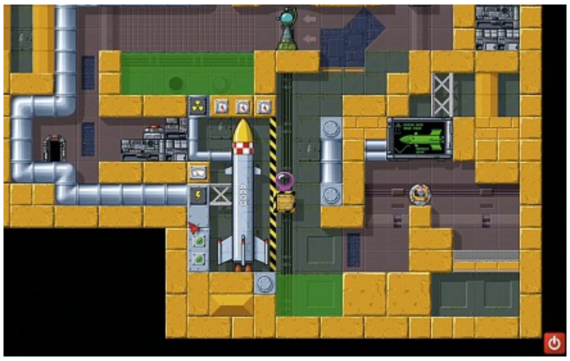
Archibald's Adventures

£15 Archibald's skateboarding gets him into a load of retro-style trouble

Just as fans of Aardman Animation's output will know that part of the joy of watching a *Wallace & Gromit* feature is seeing the fingerprints in the plasticine, so a similar joy can be had from playing an expertly constructed puzzle game. While you can't see the author's thumb print on the faces of the pixellated characters, a player can certainly divine the creator's thinking when trying to solve a particularly tricky puzzle. Pitting yourself against a programmer's diligently assembled level and coming out on top is a pleasure that quietly equals any amount of graphical pyrotechnics.

Picture this scene: while skateboading outside Professor Klumpfus' mansion, Archibald accidentally tumbles into the building only to find the Prof helpless and at the mercy of the abominable creatures of his own making. Only Archie can make his way through the mansion and sort out the mess.

This is achieved first by skateboarding, then using a special vehicle, to get through the levels and the carefully constructed puzzles contained therein. It's one of those classic puzzlers in which a few simple elements are brought together in varying ways to produce any number of interesting challenges.



Archie uses a sticky bubble to manoeuvre a crate into position. Clever lad.

For example: Archie can only ride up a single platform on his skateboard. Any higher and he has to find some way to move crates to build steps. So it's lucky that he can blow sticky gum bubbles and use them to move stuff around.

The game is big too, with 113 levels across 8 chapters, and the puzzles are so tricky in the latter stages it'll take some time to reach the big finale. This game is yet another example of less being more. Simple 2D visuals and fiendish puzzles set at an excruciatingly old-school difficulty level make this a refreshing little vintage game. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Rake in Grass
www.rakeingrass.com
Vendor Rake in Grass
www.rakeingrass.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC or Intel (Universal Binary), Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 13MB hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Simple idea
- ⊕ Excellent puzzles
- ⊕ Nice simple visuals
- ⊕ High difficulty level
- ⊕ Plenty of levels
- ⊖ Bad cut scenes

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"This is a great platform/puzzle game. There's a pleasant whiff of vintage gaming about it."

PUZZLE

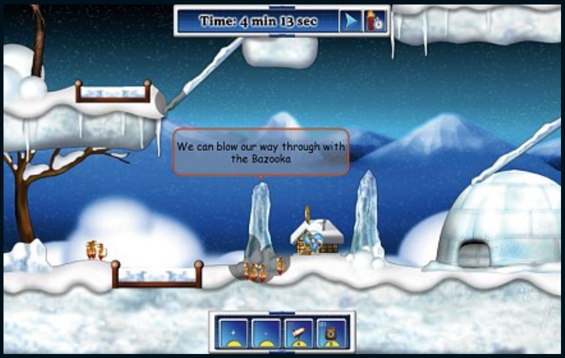
Lemure

£20 There's something strangely familiar about this game

How embarrassing it can be when a typo creeps into a publication… Imagine how RuneSoft must feel right now. It's misspelled the entire name of its latest game and it's there in large type for all to see. Quite how they managed to spell 'lemmings' so badly is anyone's guess… no, wait. This is no mistake. It's a game almost identical to the legendary 1991 puzzler but with lemurs in it instead of lemmings. Cheeky, to say the least.

The frustrating part is that if you're a younger gamer who hasn't ever heard of *Lemmings*, you're going to think this is a pretty cool idea for a game. And perhaps this is how we should view it. Imitation is after all the sincerest form of flattery, and in many respects *Lemure* replicates the gameplay of the original well.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, each level consists of an environment packed with objects that are possible impediments or hazards to the lemurs. At the start of each level a number of lemurs begin to march along the level's platforms. Being a bit like lemmings, they'll march to their death unless directed otherwise by you. This is achieved by allocating tasks to the little fellas – getting them to dig or blast through rock, for example. Get the requisite number of lemurs to the exit safely and you complete the level.



We can blow our way through with the Bazooka

A wintry level. Watch out for snowballs. Hey, those lemmings look just like lemurs!

Lemure brings a few new things to the concept, such as weather conditions, bridges and fans with which you can direct the lemurs. On the downside, whereas the original game featured in excess of 120 levels, this has only 60. What's more it doesn't have a two-player mode. That doesn't make it a terrible game, of course. Indeed, some of the levels are quite ingenious in their construction. It just seems a shame not to have resurrected the infinitely better original *Lemmings* instead. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer RuneSoft
www.rune-soft.com
Vendor RuneSoft
www.rune-soft.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.5GHz CPU (Intel or PowerPC), 256MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11, 64MB video card, 350MB hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Some nicely designed levels
- ⊕ Different themes
- ⊖ Rip-off of *Lemmings*…
- ⊖ … but with fewer levels…
- ⊖ … and no two-player…
- ⊖ … and not as good

VERDICT

★★⯪☆☆

"A shameless rip-off, lacking some features of the original but adding others. Why?"

On your Disc

This issue's disc is packed with three full programs, games demos, Mail templates, shareware and more

START HERE

Using the Disc

The *MacFormat* Disc comes with a superb interface menu that we recommend you use. Simply pop the disc into your drive, double-click the **disc** icon on your Desktop and a folder will open up. The next step is to double-click on the **MacFormat.osx** icon in order to launch the interface. Please be aware that *MacFormat* now supports OS X only, and that some programs may require internet registration to become fully functional. Full details are available on the disc interface.

MacDVD
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In the mag
Resources
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Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

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We can only provide support for software installation. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We're unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

MacDisc
FORMAT
Issue 204 | February 2009
Future
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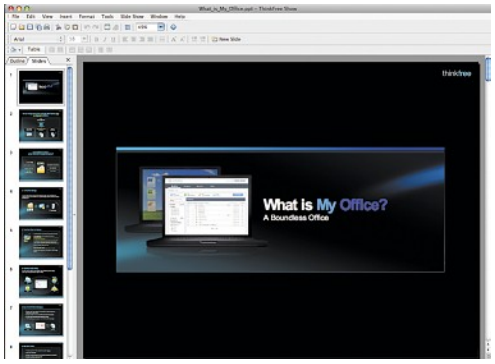
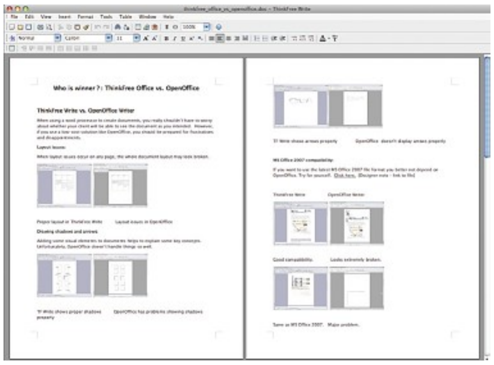
If you're lucky enough to be a student or teacher, then you only have to pay £119 for an education licence of Microsoft *Office*. If you aren't, then the costs spiral up to over £300, which is hardly pocket change. But fear not, as *MacFormat* is here to save your pennies. We've managed to secure the full current version of *ThinkFree Office* gratis for our readers.

If you're wondering, it has pretty much all the same tools as Microsoft's offering such as *Write*, *Calc* and *Show*. Each is compatible with MS's standard file formats, so there's no elongated copying and pasting of old documents required, enabling you to effortlessly exchange files with others. Even the interfaces are similar making for a simple trouble-free transition.

Along with these applications, you'll also have access to *ThinkFree*'s online service. Imagine a turbo-charged Google Docs. You can basically access and work on any of your files wherever you are using *ThinkFree*'s Ajax-based clients. In addition, there's social networking functionality enabling you to share documents with fellow *ThinkFree* users, assigning them read-only or co-author privileges. Requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.





Dossier
July 2008
Climate
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Dossier 2.0

Note keeping and information storage

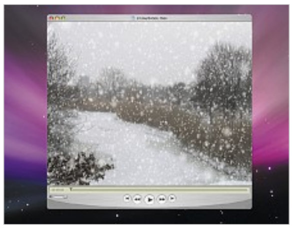
Sometimes life can become far too busy and you find yourself forgetting to undertake key tasks. *Dossier* gives you the power to manage those tasks more easily and structure them in a more way efficient way. It's ideal for keeping and organising notes, to-do lists, journals and passwords. There's also support for integrated blogging, smart folders and a sophisticated multiple document, multiple view environment that can be adapted to suit any work style. Requires OS X 10.4 or later.

SECRET OF THE LOST CAVERN

The retail version that this demo is extracted from takes place during the Paleolithic prehistoric period, roughly 15,000 years BC, *Secret of the Lost Cavern* engulfs you in spectacular scenery. You immediately set foot on a Stone Age adventure packed with puzzles and mystery in a world of exploration and intrigue. This all occurs through the eyes of Arok as you're forced to contend with the wild world where fishing, hunting, gathering and mysterious shaman ceremonies are all part of the struggle for survival. The main aim is to follow the path of your mentor and work with him to recreate the paintings of the renowned Lascaux Cave.

ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!



RESOURCES

DVD clips

Royalty-free motion backgrounds

Add flair to the DVD menus you've created for your home movies with these loop-supporting videos. There are loads of different themes to choose from.

ADELAIDE
HOLDEN
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GAME DEMO

ToCA Race Driver 3

Scorch virtual rubber

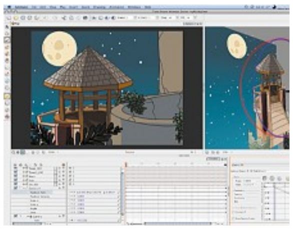
This demo gives you the chance to drive in qualification and three-lap races around the soon to be F1-specced Donnington GP circuit in a 2006 edition Honda Civic.

RESOURCE

Omnisphere videos

Insight into synth software

These videos show you how Omnisphere breaks new sonic ground by combining a wide variety of hybrid real-time synthesis techniques and a library of sounds.



SOFTWARE DEMO

Toon Boom Animate 1.0

Digital animation package

A vector-based software application that brings together the most advanced animation feature set available. Ideal for professional animators, boutique studios, students and educators.

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This Week
4
MacFormat - This Week (Enhanced)

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Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, why not listen to our 30-minute broadcast from 24 November 2009? Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.

RESOURCE

Textures

Royalty-free series

Ideal if you want to add impact and bring your work to life, this fantastic collection of textures is produced by Michal Kotek and includes high-res brick, stone, wood and metal surfaces.

DISC CONTENTS

Full apps, shareware, game demos and more

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- Video tutorials

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- ThinkFree Office 3.5

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- Book of Legends 1.0.1
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- Herod's Lost Tomb 1.0.1
- Secret of the Lost Cavern 1.0.4
- TOCA Race Driver 3

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- ConceptDraw Office 1.1
- Dossier 2.3.2
- RagTime 6.5
- Toon Boom Animate 1.0

TOP FREEWARE

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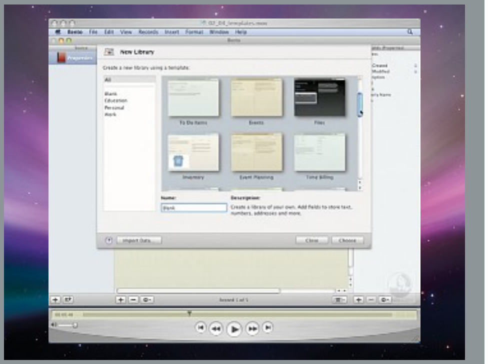
- Ghost 1.1
- iCompta 3.0
- Integrity 3.0
- JetPhoto Studio 4.0b
- myTheme Creator 2.26
- PleaseSleep 1.1
- Raw Photo Processor 3.8.2
- XBMC Media Center 8.10



READER OFFERS

Upgrade to Dossier

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Mac FORMAT Disc

Issue 204 | February 2009

Made in the EU
MAC204 DISC

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Future Technology coverdisc

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Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

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Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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MAC204 DISC

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Mac FORMAT Disc
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Issue 204 | February 2009
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ToCA Race Driver 3
Dossier 2.0

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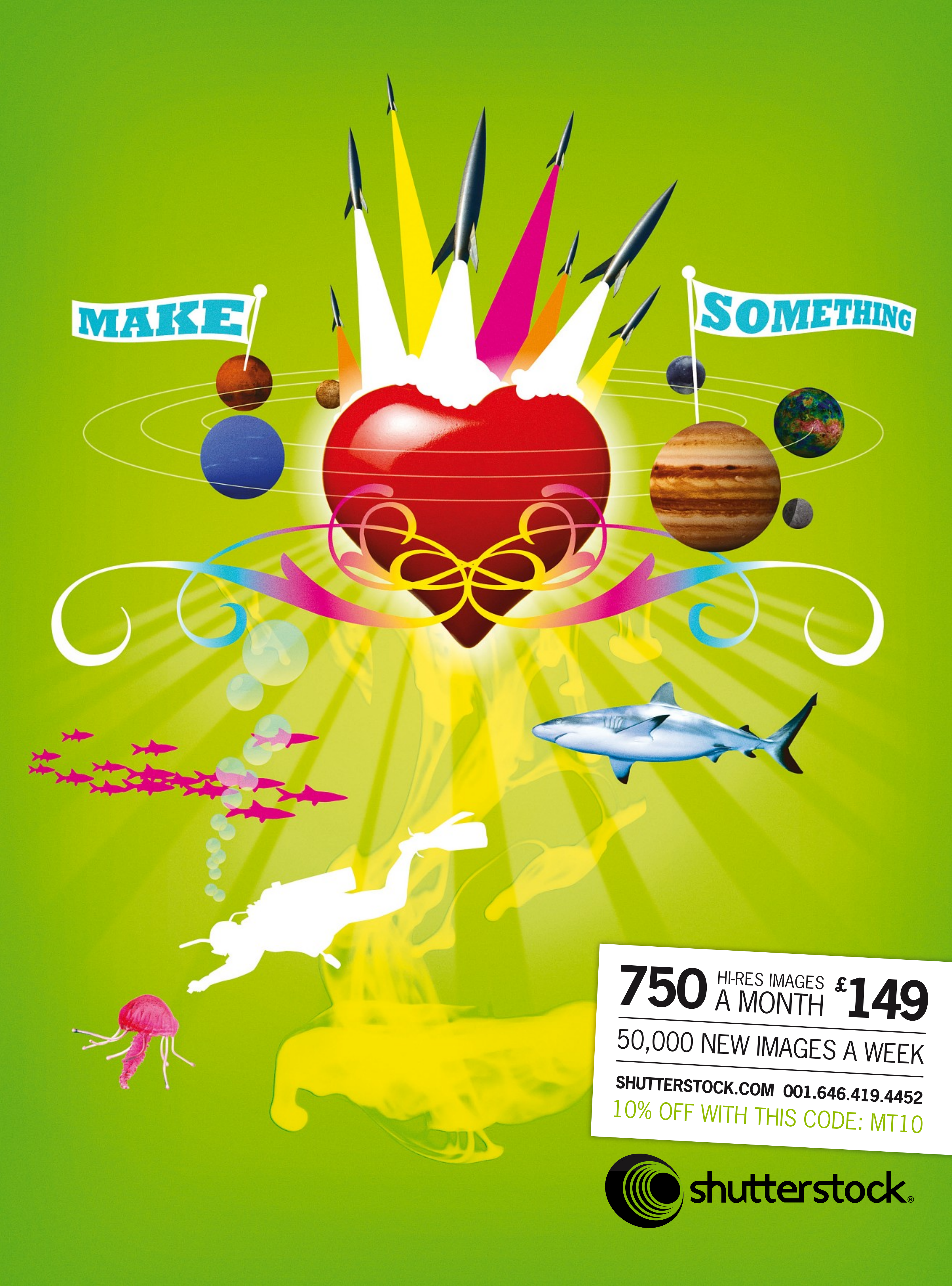
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